



2017

Educator Comments

LUKE SWAGER

Students feel the pressure to succeed from many different people in their life. Often in the midst of this well intentioned pressure, the message to enjoy the journey and laugh is lost. I've seen young adults stay motivated, engaged, and ultimately become a PLUS in life by seeing the lighter sides of things. Mckenzie puts this practice to work in her activities and as a result not only helps herself, but everyone around her.

ELIZABETH C. O'BRIEN

As a teacher I try to instill a sense of drive, focus, and a love of learning. Even as a sixth-grader, I could see these characteristics in Michaela. Her energy and eagerness to learn, allowed me to help her see that she could do anything. Each success brought about a confidence that was so fun to watch mature and develop. I am so proud to have been her teacher.

CHARLENE DAILEY

It's a privilege to be a part of a young person's educational journey. Freddie has the most mathematical and engineering-based mind I have ever had the opportunity to teach. So I tried to support his experiments and curiosity as best as possible. He truly will change the world with his analytical approach to problems and we will all be better for his efforts.

ANNE QUARTERMAINE

In order for students to be prepared for the future, they must take risks and learn from their mistakes. I push them to take these risks and to be the best, most knowledgeable person they can be. The world is so competitive and they will need to fight for what they want and deserve. In my classes, I strive to show my students that we are just scratching the surface of mathematical content and as always, there is so much more to learn. I want them to understand how math 'works' and not to be afraid of this most dreaded 'four-letter word.' If I have done my job, no one will ever be able to take advantage of my students.

MATTHEW A. HAWKINS

I want them to truly believe that they can do whatever they set their minds to; however at the same time, I consistently and constantly remind them that nothing is given without hard work and patience. Many of today's students want instant gratification, that is simply just not how the world works. If you want something you will have to put in the time, energy, and effort to make it happen. Helen has shown me that she understands this at a high level and utilizes it in all she does. I have known many great joys in life but not many match the feeling of seeing young people realize the value of hard work.

JULIE JONES

My role as a writing teacher allows me the opportunity to challenge students to form their own ideas everyday. Through reading classical texts or contemporary pieces, and then discussing how a writer brings their ideas to the audience, we get to think deeply about our own beliefs and how they fit into our overall world view. Then we take it to the next level and we write to express ourselves clearly, and meaningfully, for varied audiences. These can be exceptionally empowering activities for the student who is ready to move toward being an active, engaged citizen.

BOBBI JO STONER

Being a counselor is a great privilege. We strive to build a relationship with each and every student to help them reach their potential and know they have an adult who believes in them in every step of their journey. Making sure they are academically, personally, and socially ready for college and career has its challenges but the rewards are extraordinary. Krishna has inspired me - she is a true learner in every sense of the word. Thank you, Krishna, for always asking me "Why?" and for never settling for less than you deserve. Your passion for education is going to result in positive changes in this world.

JOSH GOTTLIEB

I try to nurture my kids' natural enthusiasm, curiosity, and joy in figuring things out.

KARI LUCKETT

As a teacher, I believe that it's important for my students to be challenged and work hard but to also have fun. I always appreciate students, like Brandon, that accept the challenge of AP Chemistry. Brandon is the kind of student that inspires me in my own learning. I love his determination in trying before asking questions, staying after to get work done and of course laughing at my corny jokes!

BECKY COOPER

Students want to be engaged and challenged. By providing an atmosphere that fosters exploration and dialogue, our students grow excited to learn the size of their minds. As teachers, we must help our students gain confidence in their abilities and voices. Once they feel that sense of discovery and empowerment, they are on the path toward shaping their destinies. I believe the process of writing and the exploration of literature are two powerful means for preparing young people to use their critical reasoning skills to overcome the obstacles that life will inevitably place in their way. By studying the human condition, they will appreciate life's joys, both small and great. I feel...

BECKY COOPER

...grateful to be a part of their journey; I feel grateful for the lessons the students teach me; and I feel grateful to be a part of a community that values all of these essential aspects of education.

REX HAFFER

Students like Daniel make it very easy to equip them for the future. His eclectic personality, desire for knowledge, and depth of research at many times makes me feel like the student. Daniel goes all out in everything he takes on; cross country, random sporcle quizzes, dancing, and studying. I've been lucky to be along for the ride the last four years.

AL E. NIEBOER

What a blessing it is to work with students like Abigail who are determined to make the most of their educational experience. To see these students succeed with hard work, diligence, and perseverance is satisfying to say the least. What I find even more fulfilling as a teacher is the unique opportunity we have to witness how our students mature into responsible individuals who can think for themselves and who can articulate a world and life perspective which motivates them to use their gifts and talents for the good of others. This has been my experience with Abigail, who through all her many accomplishments remains humbly dedicated to making a difference...

ALE NIEBOER

... in this world. Any motivation and encouragement I may have provided as a teacher to that end makes my job as satisfying as any job could be.

BARBARA R. FELKEL

The study of Latin equips students for the future in rather unique ways. My striving consists mainly in finding the best ways of convincing students of the value and importance of the subject. One component of Latin study that has been very effective with students is English vocabulary building through a knowledge of Latin roots. Lacey Burke has become fascinated by the study of etymology and truly enjoys finding Latin derivatives in her reading for other classes. Ability to use language effectively translates into power to influence the future, and Latin students will certainly be more equipped to do this. Lacey writes well at the high school level and will be ready to continue in a rigorous liberal arts program among...

BARBARA R. FELKEL

...other talented students. She is an outstanding high school senior!

LISA A. OUELLETTE

Nate has been a student of mine in Creative Writing, where I hope to give students a chance to find their own voice and use it.

WAYNE HINTON

I urge students to not let any obstacle stand in the way of reaching a goal they have set. Quitting is not an option - find a way.

COLLEEN CHAPOTON

Students are creative, inquisitive, thoughtful, and passionate. When you challenge them to fly, let them know you are here to catch them, and give them the motivation to get off the ground, they will soar. I go to work every day with a smile on my face because I have the opportunity to see talented students who reflect my passion for science right back at me. Thank you so much for showing me how amazing this world can be.

TAMA SALISBURY

One of my guiding philosophies is to encourage students to take academic risks, a process vital to learning any concept or skill. It is my hope that they leave the classroom empowered to take on challenges and to stay engaged in all aspects of their lives. It is inspiring to watch students work so hard every day, and encourages me to do the same.

William has greatly impressed me over the years I've known him. He is bright, motivated, and disciplined; but he is also kind, humble, and collaborative--traits not so easily reported on a resume. He leads by example and uses his abilities to improve our community. I am very proud of William, and look forward to his continued leadership in the future.

BRYAN HILL

I consider myself truly fortunate that each day each day I get to teach Spanish, which provides students with the opportunity to develop abilities and perspectives that will make them better linguists, thinkers and most importantly, global citizens. I strive to provide a positive and engaging setting where my students can take risks, explore cultures and grow in their communication skills. Whether they pursue travel, professions or friendships, my hope is that my students will utilize their Spanish abilities to connect with others and inspire positive change wherever life takes them. Outstanding students like Caroline inspire me daily to be a better teacher, and I am confident...

BRYAN HILL

...that she will utilize her Spanish in wonderful ways as she goes out into the world.

MICHAEL SINCLAIR

Smart students already have the tools to be successful, but there is nothing like bringing out a passion for learning in order to really focus their abilities and skills. I do everything I can to provide them with opportunities to shine, to explore, and to reach further than they imagined...and then I celebrate their success!

