

What Inspires an Educator

Throughout my student life, I have had the privilege of having amazing parents, enthusiastic mentors, and teachers who have inspired me. I knew at a very young age that I wanted to be a teacher, but it took a very special person to make me realize this. My 8th grade algebra teacher, Mrs. Burns. After taking her class I had a few realizations, I was good at math, and I wanted to be a math teacher. The reason I had these realizations is because of Mrs. Burns. She inspires me to this day because she was able to teach me algebra when I had struggled my whole life. I was excited to go to her class every day because I could learn from her. At the time, I did not realize that Mrs. Burns was an effective teacher. She not only had a passion for algebra, but she had a passion to inspire her students to learn.

Some things have changed since my 8th grade algebra class. I learned that Mrs. Burns was not the only teacher who wanted to inspire, and I learned that my passion for being a teacher was only growing. I found a passion in reading, and analyzing, and connecting those interpretations to my own life. I learned that I wanted to teach English and literature. I loved going to English class every day, so I could learn more and more about poetry, language, and reading. It taught me a lot about myself and others. I know that I need to share my passion for English with the future. I want to inspire my students to love English and love themselves. I want each and every one of them to understand their worth. Through language, my students can connect and collaborate with one another, and take their learning to a new level. When students are given the space to work together, magic happens. What our students can do with words is also magic, I want to be the guide that young people need to tell them that “they can”. We need to read our own stories before understanding other peoples’ stories.

There are many things that contribute to the motivation of students. This is because every student is different. They all have different brains, different lives, and different learning styles. My goal as an

educator is to foster every student's need. I will not expect my students to understand in the same ways. I value using different learning activities so that every student has a chance to involve themselves in the lesson. I want to help the students figure out how they like to learn. I believe that the students' questions and interests should be valued. In my experience, having teachers that were patient and willing to listen to my questions enhanced my understanding and overall learning experience. I also found it easier to learn from teachers who valued me as an individual and understood my interests. These teachers knew how to connect my personal interests to the lesson.

I once had a teacher who gave us quizzes every day, but the quiz questions were about us. How was your weekend? What was something that you found challenging on Saturday? How do you feel about prom? These are the types of questions that my 11th grade environmental ecology teacher asked. She inspires me to always consider my students' feelings and take the time to understand them. Those quizzes allowed me to get out any stress or anything that made me happy, or just my thoughts in general. This is an easy five-minute bell ringer that can help the teacher and the students. The students can express their thoughts and feelings, and the teacher can read and understand their students' personalities.

I feel that knowledge is dynamic, and it is always changing. There is always something new to learn, and anyone can learn. However, many students in today's world feel that they are incapable of learning, so it takes a teacher who can show these students that learning is universal and it's moving right next to them. Our kids should feel empowered when they enter the classroom, they should feel equal when they enter the classroom. I hope that one day I can teach about a subject that inspires me every day because I would not only be teaching my students, they would be teaching me.