

Recruiting High-Quality Teachers and What Skills They Need to Possess

As a daughter of two public school administrators I have heard first hand of the shortage of teachers in Missouri. In order to change this trajectory, schools are going to need a strong effort to start “growing their own”. I think that schools need to identify potential students who would make great teachers within the district and give them the opportunity to teach other students. Having kids tutor or cadet teach other students is a great way to get them started on this path. If students can see the difference their teaching has on others, this might spark an interest in the teaching profession. Another opportunity students might have is job shadowing. If students aren’t exposed to high-quality teaching at their school, then they might not be inspired to become a teacher. Job shadowing a teacher from a different school district would allow students to experience teaching from a different perspective than they’re used to.

The skills that I consider make a great teacher comes from experiences I’ve had with great teachers. Any teacher can learn content for a subject but not all teachers can build relationships with students. This is the biggest skill I believe teachers need to possess. As a student I know that if I feel as though my teacher is supporting me and I can trust them, I will work even harder for that person. Teachers need to be passionate about student’s success and be creative in making that happen. Being flexible in your learning style may help students who think in different ways excel. Not every one person thinks through problems the same ways. If a teacher has good relationships with students, they will recognize these differences and adjust the way they teach certain topics. Missouri needs to continue to search for teachers who are passionate about kids and want to make learning better for all.

I have had great experiences with high-quality teachers and without them I don’t think I would’ve excelled in high school the way I have. When I think about who my favorite teacher is in school, it’s not because of the subject they teach but because of the relationship they have built with me. My agriculture teacher, Mrs. Carlson, has had one of the greatest impacts on my life. As a freshman she encouraged me to take up public speaking. I have never been comfortable with my voice or doing anything public whatsoever up until then so I was quite hesitant. However, she had built a strong relationship with me so I trusted her teachings. That freshman year I went on to win state in the Missouri Quarter Horse Association speech contest. She saw a skill I possessed and pushed me to be my very best. I have since given a speech every year and continue to build by communication and leadership skills with her help. Mrs. Carlson continues to raise her expectations of me and drives me towards success not only in school but my life. All of this wouldn’t have been possible if my teacher hadn’t built a relationship with her student.