



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Hats Off to Teachers!

In completing my 15th year as school counselor at OLG, I've come to know my colleagues quite well. I've been in the classrooms and witnessed them teaching. I've also taught alongside, learning greatly from them. We share our concerns when a student is struggling - academically, emotionally, or socially. How best can we support this child? Teachers draw on their insights and experience to problem solve at every turn. But they also instill confidence, and inspire students to work diligently in uncovering their strengths and talents. Every teacher wants their students to succeed, to find their way. My mom use to say to my brothers and me, "Each one of you is like a kite. I let you go higher a little bit at a time. When I saw that you were high up riding the wind, I let you go... and you flew!" The same could be said of the guidance given by teachers.

Teachers teach! But at times the scope, depth, and importance of their work is overlooked, or underappreciated. As they arrive at school each day, they must be "on and engaged." They are in constant motion... explaining, correcting, directing, re-directing, and listening. The interaction is ongoing with students, parents, and other teachers to create a supportive learning environment. At every grade level, at every developmental level, teachers must understand the class as a whole, and every child individually. How does that kid learn? What are their challenges, what are their strengths? What works best to keep a student engaged, learning, progressing, day after day, every day, all day?

What keeps teachers going? From what I can see it's a need, a desire, a passion to share knowledge! It's about being a vital part of a child's journey, and truly wanting to make a difference. I recently asked our teachers why they chose the teaching profession. Several teachers said they had done baby-sitting, or worked at summer camps, and found it rewarding. They then fashioned their education toward teaching. Another teacher worked with at risk kids in an urban setting. Why was the system so flawed that it was a struggle just to keep these kids IN school? That question drew her closer to teaching. Others said they had parents or relatives who taught, and were wonderful role models. Several said they had a teacher who made learning great fun, an adventure. Another said a very special teacher was there for her when she lost her mother at a young age. Each of us has had a teacher who made a positive impact on us. Who was your favorite teacher, and why?

I asked several of our newly graduated 8th graders what OLG teachers meant to them, and what they take with them as they move on to high school.

Kellen C. – “The teachers truly want the best for you. They want you to succeed. OLG provided a great place for us to get a good foundation and be safe.”

Kateri R. – “The teachers have taught me so much. When I started school at 5 years old, I couldn’t read or write. Now because of these teachers I’m able to read and write well... I’ve also been given life long skills, and I know that this was a great foundation for my education.”

Wyatt H. – “ OLG is a wonderful place that inspires you to be the best person you can be! The teachers are awesome. They start where you are academically, then work to where they want you to be. They instilled a good work ethic in all of us.”

Cristian E.-T. – “I feel that the teachers have not just helped us but have guided us through our years at school. They have invested their time to bring us new skills that we will use in our lives. The best part about the teachers is that they push you to the point where you become better. The accountability has definitely prepared me for what’s ahead... For my years at OLG you could not find a closer community than the one I attended for nine years.”

Teaching. Not an easy job. It is demanding and challenging. But it truly is at the heart of who we are as individuals, as families, as communities, as nations. Hats off to you teachers, for all your hard work, support and inspiration!

I keep this quote on a slip of paper in my wallet. I don’t know who wrote it...

Fifty years from now it will not matter what kind of car you drove, what kind of house you lived in, how much you had in your bank account, or what your clothes looked like. But the world may be a little better because you were important in the life of a child.

Have a safe and restful summer. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

Heidi Ehrenberg
School Counselor