

THEMES OF SUCCESS

As you begin your teaching career, I'm excited to share with you the "voices" of over 2500 Beginning Teachers & Mentors who were asked this question:

As you think about your commitment to making a difference for students, tell a story about the best experience you have had so far this year.

Below you'll find the powerful themes that have emerged as your colleagues have reflected upon what contributes to our success as teachers and what is impactful upon the lives of our students. To me these voices reflect the "heart and the art" of teaching and learning.

Connecting with Students



- Establishing an authentic personal connection with students (currency)
- Modeling caring, patience and humour
- Building inclusion promotes acceptance of and for students
- Developing a classroom community

Passion for Teaching



- Harnessing personal experiences/passions and connecting these with teaching
- Trying something "new" (risk taking)
- Drawing upon internal resources and applying them to the classroom
- Bringing personal excitement/passion to work

Attributes Based Approach



- Empowering students by seeing attributes they possess (instead of deficits)
- Using students as a resource by accessing their strengths
- Listening and responding to student needs
- Seeing progress with a challenging student is so rewarding

Importance of School Culture



- Collaborating at school with administration, colleagues, parents and students
- Sharing/celebrating success is so powerful
- Developing positive relationships with colleagues benefits both students and adults
- Creating a supportive environment increases willingness to take a risk/experiment

* Thank you to the over 2500 Beginning Teachers & Mentors who have shared their stories of success in their classrooms