

Professionalism (Rick Ward, Island Christian School)

Have you ever dealt with someone in a professional setting who was not professional? There are excuses often given for lack of professionalism, but they are just excuses. If we are to represent the Lord Jesus Christ, then we must be professional so that our testimony shows forth an example that others will respect.

I. Teachers, Professionalism, and the School

A. **LOYALTY** –

1. Be loyal to the school, administration, policies, and overall program of the school.
2. In order to have loyal students, you must have loyal teachers.
3. Disloyalty cannot be hidden and will easily be noticed by students and parents.
4. Schools have been destroyed from within, due to a lack of loyalty.
5. Loyalty is an underlying factor in being professional.
6. If you cannot be loyal, you should not continue working for that organization.

B. **PREPARATION** –

1. Preparation is the **key** to confidence.
2. Use and plan for every minute.
3. A well prepared teacher is an effective teacher.
4. Prepare for the unexpected.
5. There is no place for laziness, prepare and present the best lesson you can every time you teach. Anything less is unprofessional.

C. **POSITIVE ATTITUDE** –

1. Have a positive attitude about the time you spend with students and the time spent in preparation.
 - a. You are investing your life in the lives of your students.
 - b. You may never receive a tangible reward in this life, but you will in eternity.
2. Be genuinely interested in your students.
 - a. Ask them how they are doing.
 - b. Tell them you appreciate them.
 - c. Let them know you are glad they are in your class.
 - d. Show them they are important and you care about them.
3. Have good attitude towards criticism. Take it as a way of improving your job performance. Learn to accept criticism graciously.
4. Do not get discouraged; remember, discouragement is a tool of the devil.

5. Keep an open and positive line of communication with those over you.

D. **DISCIPLINE** –

1. Proper discipline is the **key** to effective teaching and learning.
2. Consistency is not being slack one day and strict the next.
3. Lack of consistency adds to confusion and you begin to lose the respect of your students.
4. Consistency begets efficiency.

E. **FLEXIBILITY** –

1. There is never a “typical” school day, two days in a row.
2. Allow for the unexpected.
3. Learn to roll with the “punches.”
4. Develop a servant’s heart when it comes to unexpected changes.

G. **PROFESSIONAL GROWTH** –

1. A professional teacher will allow for growth.
2. Attend seminars or meetings that will help you be a better teacher.
3. Take classes towards a higher degree.
4. A teacher who ceases to learn ceases to be effective.

H. **SPIRITUAL EXAMPLE** –

1. Be right with the Lord.
2. Set spiritual goals for your life and your students.
3. Show by your actions that you think God is important in every aspect of life.
4. A professional teacher shares the burdens of others.
5. Recognize spiritual needs of students.
6. Be available for students to talk to you about spiritual things.
7. Be aware of spiritual applications:
 - a. From the class room.
 - b. From the lesson.
8. Show genuine spiritual interest in the lives of your students and their families.

II. Teacher Relationships With Others

A. Be able to keep confidences.

1. A teacher who cannot keep confidences will not be trusted.
2. Many things told to you by others must be kept in confidence. You will learn many things about students that should not be repeated.

B. Keep Appointments

1. Return phone calls, and respond to e-mails as soon as possible.
2. Be on time for appointments.
3. Be a public relations firm of one.

- C. Maintain Good Lines of Communication
 - 1. Assure parents and students that you are available.
 - 2. Do not be afraid of parents.
 - 3. Call to give a good report, not just a bad one.
 - 4. Be sure to send a thank you card for gifts received.
 - 5. Send get well cards for an extended illness, death in the family, etc.
 - 6. Visit a student who is in the hospital.
- D. Maintain a bright and cheery attitude (even if you have to act the part.)
 - 1. You are doing God's work, not yours.
 - 2. Give yourself to the ministry as this will keep the focus from self.
 - 3. Plan to do something for someone else without expecting something in return. "Life is blessed who indeed pours itself on others."
 - 4. Share in other peoples' problems and you will not dwell on your own.
 - 5. Count your blessings.

III. You the Teacher

- A. Set goals:
 - 1. Set goals for yourself and for what you wish to accomplish with your students.
 - 2. Set goals for self-improvement.
 - 3. A teacher without goals will not accomplish very much.
 - 4. Do not leave your life to chance.
- B. Dress Professionally
 - 1. Your appearance is very important in establishing your authority.
 - a. The way you look says a lot to others.
 - b. You can be the role model which is so badly needed these days.
 - 2. Your class will behave and respond better if you look professional.
 - 3. As professionals, look the part:
 - a. Men should wear a nice shirt, dress pants, and dress shoes that are shined.
 - b. Ladies should wear a nice dress or dress slacks and proper shoes.
- C. Act Like a Professional
 - 1. Act the role of an adult, in control of emotions and mannerisms.
 - 2. "Joe-Cool" college speech, dress, and actions, have no place in the class room.
 - 3. Strive for proper use of language, whether written or spoken.
 - 4. Do not try to be a clown or a jokester to win over students. You can reach them without being one of them.
 - 5. Require students to address you as, Mr., Miss, or Mrs. Students should also say Sir and Ma'am when responding.

- D. Never Bring Personal Problems to School
 - 1. It is not professional to discuss personal problems with students.
 - 2. Leave your problems with God and at the door of your class room.
- E. A Professional Teacher will Respect Other Teachers
 - 1. Respect their ideas.
 - 2. Respect their position.
 - 3. Address each other using only last names, *i.e.* “Mr. Brown,” not “Steve.”
 - 4. Be careful what you say about a teacher to another teacher.
 - 5. If you have a child or children in school, be careful what you say about that teacher in front of them.
- F. A Professional Teacher is Willing to Admit When he or she is Wrong
 - 1. Others will respect you more when you admit to being wrong.
 - 2. It takes a real man or lady to admit wrong doing.
 - 3. You may need to make an apology.
- G. Remember you are Here to Teach as Unto the Lord (I Cor. 10 29-33)
 - 1. Go the extra mile, offer to stay after school or to come early, in order to work with those needing help.
 - 2. If students do not see you as an available teacher, they will not see your teaching as a ministry.

****The Christian Winners' Creed****

“I believe that a true winner always does his best;

never to the glory of self, but always to the glory of God.

With the Lord’s help, I will strive to be a true winner today and every day.”