

10 Traits of Highly Effective Teachers Elaine K. McEwan Corwin Press 2002

Who is the effective teacher?

They clearly embody the rich complexity of teaching as expressed in Ayer’s definition:

“instructing, advising, counseling, organizing, assessing, guiding, goading, showing, managing, modeling, coaching, disciplining, prodding, preaching, persuading, proselytizing, listening, interacting, nursing, and inspiring.”

W. Ayers (1993) *To teach: The journey of a teacher.*

All 10 traits occur on a continuum; no teacher is uniformly strong in every trait.

NEW TEACHERS NEED TIME TO MATURE.

EXPERIENCED TEACHERS NEED TO BE ENERGIZED AND EMPOWERED.

Gilbert Highet (1975) wisely observed,

“When I started teaching, I thought it would become easier as I went along. Now I know it does not. In one way, teaching as a profession is scarcely comparable to medicine or the church. After twenty years’ experience, a doctor knows an enlarged spleen when he feels one, and a priest or minister knows what to say to a mourner or a sinner; but the average teacher has no such thorough grasp of his craft, because it is constantly changing and he himself must change with it.”

Personal Traits that Signify Character: What the Effective Teacher IS		
Trait 1	Mission-Driven and Passionate	Feeling a “call” to teach as well as a passion to help students learn and grow.
Trait 2	Positive and Real	Demonstrating qualities of caring, empathy, respect, and fairness in relationships with students, parents and colleagues.
Trait 3	A Teacher-Leader	Positively affects the lives of students, parents, and colleagues.
Teaching Traits That Get Results: What the Effective Teacher DOES		
Trait 4	With-It-Ness	The state of being on top of, tuned in to, aware of, and in complete control of three critical facets of classroom life: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The management and organization of the classroom. 2. The engagement of students.

		<p>3. The management of time. Ex. Teacher taught classroom procedures BEFORE content</p>
Trait 5	Style	Exhibits a personal unique style, bringing drama, enthusiasm, liveliness, humor, charisma, creativity, and novelty to teaching.
Trait 6	Motivational Expertise	<p>A motivator par excellence who believes in his/her own ability to make a difference in the lives of students and relentlessly presses and pursues students to maintain the highest possible behavioral and academic expectations.</p> <p>Students can learn, particularly the lowest students, anything if you teach them how to do it. Their success is all the motivation they need. Many times we don't change our teaching approach when a student isn't learning; we lower the expectations for that student. We shorten the spelling list, require fewer pages of work, or teach a watered down lesson. The student is then "successful," but what has really happened is that we have reduced our expectations to make a poor curriculum or poor teaching methods look better. Instead, we should change our teaching to make the high expectations possible. Many times the learning will be almost effortless for students if the teaching is well-designed; students love that kind of success.</p>
Trait 7	Instructional Effectiveness	<p>An instructional virtuoso: a skilled communicator with a repertoire of essential abilities, behaviors, models and principles that lead all students to learning.</p> <p>Differentiated instruction</p>
<p>Intellectual Traits That Demonstrate Knowledge, Curiosity, and Awareness: What and How an Effective Teacher THINKS</p>		
Trait 8	Book Learning	Has a sound knowledge of content (the structure of discipline) and outcomes (what the school, district, or state has determined is essential for students to know)
Trait 9	Street Smarts	Has a sound knowledge of the students, the school, and the community and uses this knowledge to solve problems in the instructional setting.
Trait 10	A Mental Life	<p>A substantive thought life:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Metacognitive 2. Strategic 3. Reflective 4. Communicative 5. Responsive