

BCSSA EAST-WEST KOOTENAYS CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Stephanie Hornquist

Fernie Secondary School

The Schools We Want

In the schools we want, I think there are five main points that are an important part of achieving academic success. Of the many qualities of the schools we would want, great teachers, a positive learning environment, graduate readiness, good morals and the importance of academics over athletics are some examples that will be discussed.

One of the many qualities a school should possess is great teachers who are educated and love what they do. Teachers who have patience, think positively all of the time and are versatile possess many qualities important to education. They are cheerful and helpful when needed. A great teacher is friendly and approachable to all students, which makes it easier for students to speak out or ask for assistance. They encourage students to follow their dreams and challenge themselves. Most of all, a great teacher is dedicated and disciplined—it's very important to set good examples for the younger generation.

Without great teachers, a positive and fun learning environment would be difficult to achieve. A positive and fun environment promotes a healthy lifestyle whereby students are happy to be at school and want to learn. School is a place for teenagers to feel safe and learn life skills they will need for the future. With a positive environment there is less likely a chance to have an unhealthy social environment where some students are bullied or left out. A positive learning environment is crucial to the academic success of all students.

Another quality that is important for schools is graduate readiness. Having grads be prepared for the real world is very important. After graduation, students will have a sense of direction for where they are going, what they are going to do and how they are going to do it. Graduates will have an idea about which career they are interested in and how they are going to achieve it. Also, they will have some understanding of how they will manage the costs of post-secondary and ways that

they can receive financial aid.

Having knowledge about your responsibilities as a student comes along with your knowledge about yourself and your morals. After graduation, students should be equipped with information about life-changing situations, consequences of their actions, and respect. The teenage generation of today has learned to take risks and be more careless than previous generations. Drugs, alcohol and sex have become more common among this age group and students going through high school should be aware of the consequences if these things are abused. As high school comes to an end, students should have learned to respect others as well as themselves. Good morals are important to a bright future.

Lastly, athletics have become very popular among people today, even more popular than academics. At most schools, when the school year comes to an end more people usually attend the athletic awards, unlike the few people who attend the academic award ceremonies. Although physical activity is important to a healthy lifestyle, an education is more important. If your athletic career doesn't work for you in the end, it's good to have a backup plan. With an education, after you have finished your sport, you are able to stay on your feet and find a new career to support yourself with. Physical activity is very important to your health, however, an education is by far the most important thing a person can have.

Overall there are many qualities we look for in schools that we would want for future generations. These are only a few examples. The main goal for a school is to succeed in giving each and every student an education and prepare them for the future. This could not be done without the hard work and support from the teachers and staff in every school. More and more changes are being made every day to help accommodate students and teachers in achieving their own success, whether it is personal or academic. ❖