

BCSSA NORTHERN CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Kayla Gwilliam

Nechako Valley Secondary School, Vanderhoof

The School of My Design

There are many things that I would include if I were to design my own perfect school. Not only would it be neatly organized, colourfully eye-catching and widely spacious, it would contain the most qualified administrators and teachers who cared deeply about the learning outcomes of each student. The school of my design would promote involved learning, extracurricular activities, and disciplined, hard work. I would also provide the students in my school with a positive environment that would encourage the learning abilities of each individual. I would make it my top priority to be aware of the learning styles of the students in my school to ensure their success. I would promise each student that my school would help them to achieve each of their goals and help them to learn in a very positive and uplifting environment.

In my school, I would desire my graduating students to be happy and successful individuals who leave with a sense of accomplishment. They would also be ready to give back to their future communities. I would want each of my students to be hard working, honest, disciplined and kind individuals, who have high standards and are well prepared to succeed in their future endeavours.

To make my school successful, there would have to be great teachers involved. A great teacher has the capability to make each student understand the subject they are teaching. A great teacher also teaches in a sophisticated way, but still has room to make a good, solid relationship with each of his students. A great teacher not only notices when you are there, but when you aren't as well. Great teachers are able to see past barriers and overcome the obstacles that may occur in their lives or the students' lives. Time, money, availability of resources or personality clashes could serve as barriers that could potentially affect the students' achievements. The biggest thing that a teacher can do is provide a fun, exciting and positive environment that promotes learning. This will immediately change the outlook that the students have on school in general, and their desire to learn. This type of school would contrast deeply to many of the schools today, which many students often find boring and monotonous. If resource restrictions are to be evident, then teachers should have the ability to be more innovative and share their knowledge in an enlightening way.

A teacher who constantly keeps herself informed on the

students' grades, behaviours and concerns will automatically allow the students to have more of a connection with the teacher and gain more respect. We as human beings often only live up to what is expected of us. A teacher who has high expectations and demands performance of his students' utmost capabilities will ensure the students' increased motivation to want to try and be better. All of these qualities would be most evident in all of the teachers at the perfect school that I ran.

In the school that I would design, technical innovations would not be as important as many schools stress today. I would have my teachers strive to teach in a manner that focused more on hands-on activities that inspired more understanding than memorizing and studying. Computers could be a nice asset for a few things that involved certain programs, but they would not be a critical requirement for learning outcomes. Photocopiers and printers would also be useful technological innovations to have because of the need to teach in a variety of different ways. The photocopier and printer allow for assignments to be made easier. Although, in the perfect school of my design, much of the work would not be photocopied worksheets, the option of these things would sometimes benefit the learning of the students in certain situations. Technological innovations would not be critical to the outcome of a student's success or affect the learning ability of the students. These types of innovations would only serve as an easier way to do things, but not take away from the hands-on experiences that I would want my students to have.

A few messages I would pass on to students that would shape their school culture is to be more helpful. Give teachers suggestions that they could do to be more creative or interesting. Come to school with a positive attitude; your attitude will affect others. Also, every student should do what they can to look out for one another. Pay attention to those who may be confused or hurt or distressed. Be sure to gain a personal relationship with each of your teachers and express your concerns to them. Students should be actively involved in extracurricular and school activities and be role models to each other at all times. The school that I would design and run would have a high education system, involved students, great teachers, some technological innovations, and a happy, strong, positive environment. ❖