



# MOVING THE MOUNTAIN

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- How to motivate students.
- How to get students to work for you.
- Purple Paw Consulting
- Marg Pickup M.Ed



## **YOU HAVE A STUDENT WHO FAILS TO COMPLETE WORK**

- Firstly, you must take the following into consideration:
  - Can the student do the work?
  - Are there home problems that may be interfering with the student's ability to do work?
  - Are there school problems that may be interfering with the student's ability to do work?
  - Is the student having difficulty with other academic work?
  - Are there any interfering health concerns?
  - Is the amount of work expected reasonable?

## **INTERVIEW TIME**

- Set up a time to talk to the student
- Remember that acceptance is your most powerful tool
- Ask the student when have they been successful in the past
- Ask how they were able to make that success happen
- How is doing their work helpful to the student
- How is not doing work helpful to the student
- Ask student what he knows about doing well in school
- Ask student where they are now on a scale of 1-10
- Ask student how he got to that point on the scale
- What have teachers, parents and friends done to get him where he is on the scale
- What would he have to do to get some movement on the scale
- If the student had a magic wand and could change things at school, what would he change
- How would the student know when he got to school that the magic wand had worked

## **PUTTING IT TOGETHER**

- You should have lots of information to work with. You know what the student is capable of and you have met with the student to discuss the problem. The student now needs to plan to put himself up a notch on the scale.

## **HOW TO SET UP YOUR CLASS SO THAT STUDENTS WANT TO WORK.**

- Have a comfortable atmosphere
- Have students' work displayed in the room
- Greet students when they come into your class
- Be out in the hall whenever possible to guide students into your room
- Hold all phone calls
- Leave personal notes on desks for students

## **HOW TO SET UP YOUR LESSON SO THAT STUDENTS WANT TO WORK.**

- Have an open atmosphere for learning
- Involve all students in helping other students
- Set up class rewards as well as individual rewards
- Give students choices
- Create opportunities for variety in lessons
- Play music that fits the mood of the lesson
- Encourage discussions
- Anticipate problems
- Have a student of the day
- Allow students to use their talents when working on assignments
- Admit when you are wrong
- Admit when you do not know something
- Teach academic skills- don't assume that students know them
- Be clear about rules and expectations
- Use items students are interested in
- Listen to students' feelings and opinions
- Discuss different strategies for handling situations
- Develop classroom rules with the students
- Maintain high expectations
- Let students know why things are the way they are
- Share your enthusiasm
- Relate to knowledge students already have
- Refuse to accept poor performance as "the best they can do."
- Never take good work for granted
- Try to personalize positive reinforcement
- Gather information about students

## **GOAL SETTING**

- How will you know when student is up that notch on the scale

- What plan does student have to move up scale
- What does the student need from others to make their goal happen
- Discuss with student what should happen if he does not meet his goal
- Have student use already existing talents to increase his skills

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

- Don't forget to involve parents
- When contacting parents let them know what the problem is and what your plan of action is.
- Let parents know what you would like from them
- Don't forget to inform parents on progress
- Let parents know what is working
- Parents can offer a lot of good information. Listen carefully.

Thomas Edison

- **If we did all the things we are capable of doing, we would literally astonish ourselves.**