

THE VIEW FROM HERE

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Research consistently strives to validate that which is not immediately evident or that which is so readily accepted as true that it must be a myth. Recently an educational research project took a close look at the impact of the teacher on student learning. In essence it concluded that the teacher has a measurable effect upon student learning. Highly effective teachers increase the rate students learn significantly.

I cite this research because I believe most people have known this about teachers for a long time. We did not know the magnitude of their contribution, but we intuitively knew that they made a difference in our life. One of the common virtues of this special teacher is how much she/he cared about the students.

National Teacher Week is scheduled for the week of May 7-11 and National Teacher Day is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8th. I wish to express my gratitude to the teachers in the School District of Poynette for the role they are playing in the lives of our students. I am confident that our students will join that population of Americans who will sing the praises of those special teachers who have made it possible for them to succeed in life.

When the author Robert Fulghum wrote the book "All I Really Need To Know I Learned In Kindergarten" he was describing some of the remarkable traits of special teachers. When I visit a Kindergarten classroom excitement is in the air. Smiles are everywhere. Anticipation and wonder are ever present. The children enjoy their classmates and respond to the gentle directions of their teacher.

I believe that Robert Fulghum was telling his readers that Kindergarten represents all that is good about education. We learn to get along with others. We learn to appreciate order. We learn to trust our teacher. We learn that effort is key to success. We learn to share. We learn to help our neighbor. We learn the "Golden Rule."

Successful schools are built upon the culture that Robert Fulghum describes in his book about Kindergarten. Successful schools will always have one thing in common - they have outstanding teachers. Their classroom is very much like the Kindergarten classroom that Robert Fulghum praised. It is a learning center.