

Principles of Teaching

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Unity of Purpose: *Why are we here?* The real questions before us are: Do we as educators really believe we can make a difference? Are we able to rise to the challenge? Do we truly believe our students can learn? Am I able to teach my students? Are we the professionals? Do we know how to reach our students? Do we know them well enough to “snag” their interests, to manipulate them into wanting to learn more about what it is we are teaching? How interesting/engaging is your classroom presentation? Would you sit through it?

Lesson Planning: *A planning tool to keep us focused on instruction.* As we look at lesson plans, goals, benchmarks, standards, and strategies, we attempt to put into action the best practices that we, as educators, can pull out of our “hat”. As I have seen this process evolve, I see the “I can” statements as a very effective tool. As a student in your class, the objective of the lesson is now clear. I should know what it is I am expected to know and/or be able to do after having been in your class session. “I can....” This sounds really simple and I believe it sets the foundation for our instruction.

Reflection: *What could I have done to make my presentation better?* As we near the halfway mark of the first quarter, do we know where our students are in terms of being prepared for the State testing requirements? Do we know and understand what our students need to know in order to move to the next level of NCLB? Are we able to differentiate the instruction to meet the needs of all the students in our classroom?

All students should be meeting the expectations for your course: there should be no failures. The “I cans” should be evident and reflected in the grades. I believe when assessing mastery from instruction, a trigger of 80% should be used to guide us to move on or to re-teach with another approach. For those unable to demonstrate 80% mastery, how will you help them say, “I can”?

Sense of Urgency: *Our students need to achieve at a higher level.* The power to teach our “hawks” to soar rests within each of us. Now is the time to engage that power. Dulce High School is “A Place of Learning”. Let’s teach for learning. Let’s “make it so”!