

Great Teachers Survey

Instructions: Pat Bassett's *Independent School* magazine column (Spring 2013) "[25 Factors Great Teachers Have in Common](#)" identifies many attributes of exceptional teachers. As “homework” for the presentation and discussion he will conduct with our community, he has asked that participants read the article and then submit their assessment of the relative importance of each factor by marking on this score sheet a plus (+) **next to five to eight factors that are *important and our faculty does well***, and marking with a minus (-) **next to five to eight factors that are *important and our faculty does less well***. All other factors leave unmarked.

1. *Love kids and mentor them.*
2. *Know how kids think and what motivates them* to think.
3. Exude irrepressible enthusiasm for the subjects they teach, but *teach students rather than subjects*.
4. *Advocate for their students*, especially when they alone see virtue and talent hidden in a student.
5. *Empathize with the most vulnerable students*, and provide a safe harbor for any student caught in a personal storm.
6. *Demonstrate high academic intelligence* (IQ) through their intellectual curiosity and thoroughness; *and* demonstrate *emotional intelligence* (EQ) through their empathy, social judgment, and sensitive approach to difficult conversations.
7. *Experiment with teaching and the emerging technologies* that support it, relishing being the “fast horses” out of the gate in an effort to innovate in ways that improve their teaching and their students’ learning.
8. *Become “first followers”* of other teachers with good ideas.
9. *Seek to stay current with the research* in the field, especially as it relates to the age group they teach.
10. *Adjust to the needs and abilities of kids*, rather than expect all kids to squeeze into the same learning mold.
11. *Network with other teachers and scholars* in their school, local community, and (increasingly) the digital community.
12. *Collaborate* with and support their colleagues, *and demonstrate deep concern for the culture* of the school.
13. *Assess skills on a flexible and individualized scale* more so than content on a fixed scale.

14. **Model the skills and values a 21st-century school would seek as student outcomes:** character, creativity, communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and cosmopolitanism (cross-cultural competency).
 15. **Create a positive, intentional, achievement-oriented culture in their classroom** rooted in an ethos of fairness and nurtured by the belief that every student can succeed.
 16. Seek to find and **leverage each student's strengths** rather than dwell on any student's deficiencies.
 17. **Support school leadership, including taking initiative in solving problems** rather than in creating them.
 18. **See their students' academic failure as partly their own** and work to reverse it.
 19. **Show interest in their students beyond their academics**, attending their games and concerts and exhibits.
 20. **Love life, and show it.**
 21. **Find a way to reveal their souls and the ethical frames by which they think**, when appropriate, in the "teachable moments" that present themselves in school settings.
 22. Love learning and **model the growth mindset** they imbue in their students.
 23. **Embrace diversity and manifest cross-cultural competency**, approaching differences with curiosity rather than judgment.
 24. Find ways, despite the lack of positional power, to **"lead from the middle."**
 25. **Send "a postcard of the destination,"** as Chip and Dan Heath put it in their book *Switch*, so students are clear about where they are going and how to get there.
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Instructions to the School:

- 1.) Ask survey participants to email you the numbers of their top five to eight (+) **statements** (plusses: important/we do well) and their top five to eight (-) **statements** (minuses: important/we do less well).
- 2.) Collate the results on this document showing the # of plusses and the # of minuses next to each of the 25 questions. Email the results in advance of the workshop to Bassett@HeadsUpEd.com. Thanks!