

Elementary Education

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RING! ! ! 8:05 A.M. the students file in. Lockers slam. News is shared with fellow classmates. As teachers, we look on, listen to yesterday's stories, or help students. A lot of times you hear stories about pets, family members, or news about Iowa—since I am from that state, they love to come up with any information about Iowa. This is all before class actually begins. Once in the classroom, the day begins. Devotions start off the day followed by the subjects you must teach.

A lot of lesson plans must be prepared in advance. Papers have to be graded; materials are photocopied off; notes are written; things are written on the board. So, why become a teacher? It sounds like a lot of hard work. Is it because the school day is so short? After all, school only runs from 8 or 9 A.M. until 3 P.M. or so. Don't forget that we also are allowed three months off during the summer. PLUS, all of our holiday vacations! WOW—only nine months of work!

I would hope that you would not enter the profession of teaching with these ideas in mind. Teaching takes dedication, patience, and a willingness to work hard. As teachers, we have a goal to instruct our children all the subjects, doing so through the Holy Bible. We must “teach our children in the fear of the Lord.” This is a great calling and not one to take lightly. I Corinthians 12:28 states, “And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles...” Teachers are a model. They must witness in word and in deed that their life is God-centered, not only in school but also in the community. As teachers, we have a calling to help the students recognize their God-given abilities and gifts for the Kingdom of God.

There will be times when we will be tried or have some disagreements. There will be teacher meetings or committees that you will serve on. Children will not have their work handed in on time or forget an assignment. They will cause hurt to one another and we have to deal with those situations. Students of all abilities will be in our classes and we have to work with them. Busy, busy, busy!

As a teacher, you can set your own classroom schedule. We love to sing in the mornings and can usually generate a lot of volume that always sends chills down my spine. We have story time and art. The kids love to have gym. A lot of joy is seen in the faces of the students.

Why be a teacher? We have a love for children. Teachers try to guide the students in developing their talents. I always tell them that they never know what they can do until they at least try and then remember to “do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men,” Colossians 3:23b.

We also have the fellowship of other teachers. Teachers are always willing to offer advice when needed. Ideas are shared. Respect of others is seen. We share in each other's joys and burdens. Teachers must learn to live as responsive disciples of Jesus Christ.

No matter what field you choose to enter remember one thing. Ephesians 4:1b says this: “I beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called.” Do you think about being a teacher someday? Call the school nearest you and ask to visit it a couple of days. It would be great to see a teacher in action and then you might be able to get a slight understanding of what is all involved in becoming a teacher. I enjoy it!!

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