

# 10 Traits of “Top-Notch” Teachers

How do we shape up as Seventh-day Adventist educators?

Phyllis Gimbel, Associate Professor of Education and Professional Programs (Graduate Division) at Bridgewater State University has asked her graduate students, who are pursuing master’s and doctoral degrees in education, to identify “who was your most effective teacher and why?”

*Their responses clustered into the following 10 areas:*

1. Teachers who teach for understanding and demonstrate a willingness to change teaching techniques, if necessary, so that most (if not all) students demonstrate mastery of subject matter.
2. Teachers who connect new learning to students’ daily lives.
3. Teachers who tap students’ critical thinking skills by asking provocative questions.
4. Teachers who encourage students with meaningful comments on their written work.
5. Teachers who maintain high expectations for all students and who have a strategy to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse group of learners.
6. Teachers who keep classroom momentum high.
7. Teachers who build relationships, and who are caring, inspiring, and encourage students to work beyond their “comfort zone.”
8. Teachers who care so much about students that they spend more time at school, and when they are at school they are constantly engaged with their students.
9. Teachers who communicate often with parents about student progress and who develop a “team spirit” with parents to maximize each student’s learning experiences.
10. Teachers who seek ongoing professional growth to keep abreast of the latest developments in the teaching profession (includes graduate courses, workshops, membership in professional organizations, etc.)

