**How to Be a Professional Teacher**

A professional teaching qualification does not make you a professional in the true sense of the word. Belonging to a particular profession does not automatically guarantee that the service you provide is a professional one. Hence, teaching as a professional is a hard thing to do because it encompasses many roles to be done well. Read this article to find out how you can stand out as a true professional in your field: the classroom and larger school community.

1.Inspire the trust of your students and parents. Create a good first impression from day one of the academic year.  
  
2. Dress like a professional.    
  
3. Always be on time for work. A professional teacher understands the need to start the day well, every day. Truly professional teachers will make sure that they arrive at least ten minutes before the first bell rings, so as to prepare themselves mentally for the day ahead.  
  
4. Be prepared. Check your diary the night before and plan the day ahead. Professional teachers plan thoroughly too for every lesson and class.

5.Follow procedures and the protocol expected at your school.

6.Take charge of your classroom. Manage your students' behaviour. A professional teacher will not keep running to school management for assistance with classroom discipline, for example.

7.Never miss a deadline. Professionals keep their work up to date and plan ahead. Amateurs leave work until the last minute.

8.Treat your colleagues and supervisors with respect. Model respect for authority for your students and gaining their respect will be much easier for you.

9.Be passionate, positive, and enthusiastic about your work. A professional teacher will not create negativity in a staff room or engage in mindless gossip and the spreading of dissent.

10.Embrace change. A professional teacher will not be a doomsayer and throw cold water on new ideas or suggestions for positive change.

11.Take an interest in every child. The better you get to know your students, the more influence you will have on their attitude towards your subject and on their lives in general. Remember the adage: "Teachers touch eternity; they never know where their influence may end."

12.Treat your students with respect. Never publicly humiliate or belittle your students. Do not discuss their results or grades in front of other students.

13.Be a mentor not a friend. Model responsible adult values, exhibit self-control, choose your words carefully and consider the impact they may have on a particular student or group of students.

14.Maintain confidentiality. A professional teacher will use students' personal information to assist in helping a child to reach his or her potential.

15.Consult parents. Try to include parents in the educational process and encourage their support of the school's disciplinary processes and procedures. Be polite and calm when dealing with parents.

16.Support your colleagues and school management. Remember you are one person in a group of professionals who share a common goal and vision.

17.Let excellence be your aim. Draw gently alongside those who are in need of help and find creative ways to assist them to improve their grades.

18.Take responsibility for your student's results. As a professional teacher, the grades your students achieve are a reflection on you. Bear this in mind, in all you do.

19.Behave professionally in public. Always support your school.

20.Constantly seek new subject knowledge and share this with your students. Take short courses to keep yourself mentally stimulated.

21.Simplify your lessons: Good teachers make it easy to understand complicated things. Use examples, models and coloured pictures and Photographs. Teach in illustrations that your students can relate to.

22.Keep your students attention. Teach your students why the knowledge you convey is important and how they can apply what they learn in their daily lives. Then they are more likely to remember what you teach.