STUDENT SUPPORT AND MOTIVATION: TUTORING, COACHING, AND SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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Abstract

Students have more influence today than in the past due to changes in the community, school culture, and world. Students require options for extra support and resources, assisting them in making positive decisions. Students are dealing with an absence of support and motivation from home and school. This paper will focus on strategies and techniques that students can implement to improve areas of concern or weakness. The recommendations provided for academic or social improvement will empower students' decision-making processes. This paper will produce suggestions, strategies, and resources to support students' academic and social skills; guiding them towards finding their passion for empowering and changing the world. Study skills, organization skills, and ways to get involved will be addressed. Studying ahead of time or not procrastinating is an advantage in preparing for an assessment or assignment. To prioritize schedules, students can use a journal or calendar to get assignments completed, then celebrate the assignment by doing something positive, like tutoring or volunteering for other organizations. Students need motivational support to set goals and support to complete them. Students need diverse strategies and resources for tutoring, coaching, and support in the 21st century.

Keywords: tutoring, coaching, students, school, support, motivation, resource, academics, strategies, passion, empower.

1 INTRODUCTION

This paper will discuss empowerment and motivation strategies that can be used within the classroom and community to bring their passion, and present strategies and ideas teachers can use to empower and motivate students in their academics, community, and social life. Students have more pressure today than in the past due to changes in the community, school culture, and world. Students require options for extra support and resources, assisting them in making positive decisions. Students are dealing with an absence of support and motivation from home and school. We need to help our students by providing suggestions, strategies, and resources to support students' academic and social skills; guiding them towards finding their passion for empowering and changing the world.

Students require additional support in the classroom that empowers and motivates. However, motivation and empowerment are lacking within our schools and community. Empowerment, motivation, and support are absent factors in guiding students into discovering their passion. If schools and teachers motivate, support, and empower students into finding their passion, then students will be able to achieve so much more in schools. Students will be engaged to complete an assignment because they understand their “why?” Students will understand why they should learn and strive to accomplish their assignments and aim for their current and future goals. Some students are not motivated to attend school. They are tired of doing the same routines in the classroom. Yes, they need enthusiasm and strength. If we start implementing a variety of empowerment or motivational strategies within the classroom, student participation will likely increase; and students will strive harder to complete tasks.

2 METHODOLOGY

This paper proposed a problem that students lack support and motivation within the schools. This quantitative research was based on students’ lack of support and motivation when studying and completing classroom assignments in a private school. Students have difficulty completing tasks, lack a relationship with the teacher, or do not understand a particular lesson or subject. This study focused on students ages 10-12 in Grades 5 and 6 (Table 1). Students were natives of fourteen different countries. Students were chosen based on class participation and participating in a survey to discuss empowerment, motivation, and support. The teacher asked the following questions:
What does empower mean to you?

What ways can a teacher "empower" you? Give examples.

Do you feel your teachers at school support you at school and in your community? Explain.

What are other ways teachers can support you at school?

Are you sometimes unmotivated at school? Why do you feel this way?

Give examples of how teachers can motivate you.

What other ways can teachers make school or community involvement fun or interesting?

What are some creative ways to use technology at school to motivate you?

What are some creative ways to make learning fun at school to empower, motivate, and support you?

If you received support, motivation, and empowerment lessons at your school, how would this change you to help improve your community? How would you give back to the community?

Once the students completed the questions, each question was read and recorded in a chart, comparing responses of other students. Some of the responses were repeated, which became the focus of this paper.

2.1 Empowerment and Motivation

There were ten questions for the participants to answer. Students identified the questions by their age, nationality, and gender. Students took 45 minutes to answer questions or statements. If students did not know an answer, they were asked to leave it blank. Each question and the answer was read and recorded to exam similarities and differences in responses to empowerment, motivation, and support.

Students defined the meaning of "empower." Students were asked to define "empower." Half of the students were able to answer the definition of "empower." As defined empower means 1.) give strength and confidence to Motivation means 1.) the reason for your actions or behavior 2.) enthusiasm.

Students were asked their thoughts on empowerment, motivation, and support. Half of the students had an understanding of the definition empower, but lacked resources or explanations on how to implement empowerment, motivation, or support in school or community.

By reviewing the results, it showed empowerment, motivation, and support is a great need in schools to assist students set goals and become motivated to learn. As students provided more information on their thoughts of what motivation and support meant to them, a list was compiled that showed what students wanted to boost in motivation and to be empowered.

- Provide empowerment lessons/session in school or in the community
- Provide websites and resources on empowerment
- Provide support to pursue goals and dreams
- Encourage with real-life examples to chase dreams. Pushing towards their passion
- Start a new trend or campaign to motivate the students

Student feedback is important in understanding what empowerment and motivation means to them. Great ideas that can implemented into the classroom.

2.2 Four Ways to Implement Motivation in Classroom

The following are four creative ways teachers can implement empowerment, support, and motivation into the classroom.

2.2.1 Helping Others

Students need motivational support to set goals and support to complete them. Jenkins & Jenkins [1] states peer tutoring provides a more caring climate in the school, students and teachers monitor each other's behavior and invest in each other success. Students can reach their school goals and also gain social maturity through responsibilities that affect the lives of others. Many times students are not interested in a subject or may not understand. Peer tutoring can help with motivating students to
accomplish a given task. Students can study ahead of time and not procrastinate. Studying each night is an advantage in preparing for an assessment or assignment. To prioritize activities and events, students can use a motivational journal or calendar whether it's a calendar book or phone to get tasks completed independently, and then celebrate the job by doing something positive, like tutoring or volunteering for other organizations.

2.2.2 Social Media

McKibben [2] discussed how to turn social media over to students. Yes, there is some debate on what the students may say. However, this is the opportunity to allow students to be motivated while focusing on their lessons. McKibben [2] states empowering students to take ownership of their classroom, school, or district social media accounts is an exercise in trust. Get permission from your administration and parents, and if allowed, create an Instagram and Twitter page for your students to post and share their wonderful classroom experiences. Many students are on social media; teachers should engage their students with social media classroom experiences.

2.2.3 Portfolios and Accountability

Having students maintain growth portfolios to see how they have improved throughout the academic years have been found beneficial towards student motivation. The collection would hold students accountable for the progress they have made throughout the school year. Students would be able to reflect on their progress and make quarterly plans to achieve their results. Students can use a calendar with motivational quotes to set schedules to complete tasks. Building relationships are essential in motivating and showing support for students. Students begin to build confidence and have something to offer and achieve in the classroom. Students can focus on academics and their passion when maintaining the growth portfolio. Students should make sure they do weekly or monthly check-ins to see if they are meeting their goals. Students can also have an accountability partner. Once students achieve their goals, they can find a creative and rewarding way to celebrate the accomplishment. "Performance portfolios are collections of a student’s best work, with the student taking the lead in the selection of the work and providing an explanation as to why they should be included" as stated by Renwick [3]. A portfolio is a tool that students can use to self reflect and monitor their progress to improve in their academics and work towards accomplishing their goals or passion.

2.2.4 Motivational Coloring

"Teachers who take on the catalyst role feel secure in their work and have a strong commitment to continual improvement," Harrison & Killion [4]. Start a trend with students. Another cool, idea is having a school community coloring wall designated for motivation throughout the school or classroom. Students can color or draw on the wall for motivation, then post the motivation pictures on the school website or social media page. It seems to start a trend and becoming creative in the classroom, as the teacher, will give students motivation to reach higher for the goals or dreams or even tap into them. What's something trendy that you can do to motivate your students?

3 RESULTS

Students answered the ten questions provided by the teacher. The teacher reviewed each answer and documented on a chart. Responses that were repeated 3 times or more and was a creative trendy, idea became the focus of this paper. The teacher used the responses to develop strategies and resources that could be implemented into the classroom to empower, motivation, and support students. As a result of the quantitative research, students require additional lessons in the classroom that empower and motivate them. However, the problem is motivation and empowerment is absent within schools and community. Empowerment, motivation, and support are missing to lead students into finding their passion.

Students in Grade 5 did not give ways to motivate or support at school or community. However, students did know the definition of empowerment. Based on their responses, Grade 5 students need to have a better understanding of what motivation and support means.

Students in Grade 6 did provide ways to motivate and support at school. Students offered creative ideas and techniques to incorporate motivational support into the classroom. Students did understand the definition of empowerment.
By doing this study, it became a realization that motivation and support are needed and wanted by the students. Students want more motivation to achieve their goals and dreams. Students do have a desire to tap into their passion. Students want their teachers to motivate and support them in other ways other than in academics. Students believe that if the teachers motivate and support them for their life journey, then they will do better in their academics.

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4 CONCLUSIONS

Some students are not motivated to attend school. They are tired of doing the same routines in the classroom. By implementing, various empowerment, motivation, and support strategies within the class, student participation will increase, and students will strive harder to complete tasks. Teachers, schools should create ways to empower and motivate students in schools. The creative ways to empower can be in the daily, weekly, or monthly lesson plans or school calendar. We need to reach our students in different ways in the 21st century for them to strive for their passion. There are other key elements identified by researchers that can promote student engagement. Autonomy, competence or self-efficacy, relatedness, and relevance will help students feel they have the power to determine their life path. Ferlazzo [5] states students will be able to transfer what they learn into other contexts.

“Autonomy is the amount of power students have to determine what they're doing and how they're doing it.

Competence or self-efficacy is when a student has the necessary skills to complete the assigned task successfully.

Relatedness is created when students' actions result in developing closer relationships with those whom they like and respect.

Relevance means the students perceive the things we ask them to do as being in their self-interest” Ferlazzo [5].

My passion has always been to increase student empowerment and motivation within students. Teachers and schools should work together to create habits to empower and motivate students. Empowerment and motivation can easily be added into the daily lesson plans or monthly school calendar of events. This paper has provided ways to empower, support, and motivate students in the 21st century. There is a need to encourage students to strive for their passion, and it begins in the classroom.

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REFERENCES