


By practicing what they preach, teachers help inform and inspire their students.

In the past, students were always told “Do what I say, not what I do.” Adults sometimes demanded a specific way of going about things without setting an example. Breaking away from this hypocritical state, teachers showed their students a positive pathway to follow by using their own life as an example. Some teachers dropped the phrase and changed it to “Practice what I preach” in order to guide and discipline their students. Journalism teacher Nick Gregory tried to set an example for his students by spreading Tiger Pride. In addition to encouraging pride, Gregory got his students involved in the pep rally by painting their faces and joining them as they raised their “paws” in the air.

“I have been involved in band ever since I was in fifth grade,” band teacher Andy Perkins said. “I continued to participate in it all through high school and into college. My experiences in college and earlier in my life convinced me to give other students what I received. Eventually, I became a band teacher. I learned a great number of skills and techniques from college, which taught me to teach my students the proper way. Now, I try to give all of my students as good of an experience as I had, if not better. I want my students to succeed, so I make sure that I give them the knowledge they need for their future.” Photo by Erik Smith

“Mr. Perkins is one of the best things that happened to the band program,” junior Andrea Frear said. “He brings life to it that makes everyone enjoy band. His attitude toward teaching is positive and uplifting. Mr. Perkins continually provides encouragement and excitement each day of class. He treats every student as an individual, so we each get equal and personal attention from him. Even in this short time with Mr. Perkins, I have already improved my skills. Mr. Perkins’ help and dedication to his students has assured me that our band has much success ahead of it.” Photo by Natasha Schmult

“I played in a men’s 30 and over league for soccer in the summer,” soccer coach Matt Sullivan said. “This experience helped me relate to the game from a different perspective, which further helped me to assist the kids.” Photo by Pam Bunka

“Being a cheerleader in high school helps me understand the girls better.” Cheerleading coach Jill Starr said. “I know the skills that are expected in competition, so this helps in leading the girls to success.” Photo by Jessi Brooks

What do you think makes a good teacher?

> “It is essential for a teacher to have a good sense of humor,” senior Ryan Anson said. “If there is no humor, then I get bored and don’t have any interest in the class. I don’t want to be involved unless the teacher is making things entertaining.” Photo by Natasha Schmult

> “A teacher has to be excited about his or her job,” freshman Karlee Carbary said. “If they act like they don’t want to be there then they make us not want to either. A lack of excitement and enthusiasm makes the students less attentive.” Photo by Natasha Schmult

ART teacher Kristin Poniers helps freshman Brandy Nester improve the quality of her latest clay project. Photo by Natasha Schmult