

# On Being Professional

Know that:

All students are capable of learning.

All students are doing the best they can.

- Dress for the salary you wish you were earning.
- Take a seat at the table. Join the committees that make important decisions about your job.
- Value the time of others and arrive a few minutes before the meeting.
- Don't make excuses for being late. Just apologize and try not to let it happen again.
- Don't walk into a meeting late with a fresh cup of coffee. If you had time to get the coffee, you had the opportunity to be on-time.
- Eat lunch with your peers: That's the place to build support for your program and to advocate for artistic learners.
- Attitudes are contagious: Remember that you can change the topic or guide the conversation into another direction.
- Never speak poorly of a student or colleague.
- Know that young people are learning to communicate. Take time to *really listen* to what they are *trying* to tell you.
- Don't let teenage apathy fool you. If students are challenging you that means they are listening. Be willing to raise your game to their level.
- Make your lessons relevant and challenging.
- If you lose your cool with a student, apologize.
- Acknowledge effort in public, redirect unwanted behavior in private.
- Be an advocate for all, even the students who get on your last nerve.
- Be willing and eager to learn from students & faculty.
- Be willing to share your ideas.
- Be willing to ask for help.
- Be willing to admit when you get it wrong.
- Treat students as if each day is a new start. Don't hold a grudge or rehash the past. Stay positive & move on.
- Don't be afraid of experienced teachers. You can learn a lot from them.
- Thank others for their advice; take what seems helpful and then move forward with your plans.
- Advocate: Make your curriculum as public as possible. There is a direct correlation between support, funding, and visibility.