

What Great Teachers Do Differently: 14 Things That Matter Most

[Todd Whitaker](#)

In his recent book, of the above title, Todd identifies fourteen things that great teachers do differently:

1. Great teachers never forget that it is people, not programs that determine the quality of a school.
2. Great teachers establish clear expectations at the start of the year and follow them consistently as the year progresses.
3. When a student misbehaves, great teachers have one goal: to keep that behaviour from happening again.
4. Great teachers have high expectations for students, but even higher expectations for themselves.
5. Great teachers know who is the variable in the classroom: THEY are.
6. Great teachers create a positive atmosphere in their classrooms and schools.
7. Great teachers consistently filter out the negatives that don't matter and share a positive attitude.
8. Great teachers work hard to keep their relationships in good repair--to avoid personal hurt and to repair any possible damage.
9. Great teachers have the ability to ignore trivial disturbances and the ability to respond to inappropriate behaviour without escalating the situation.
10. Great teachers have a plan and purpose for everything they do.
11. Before making any decision or attempting to bring about any change, great teachers ask themselves one central question: "What will the best people think?"
12. Great teachers treat everyone as if they were good.
13. Great teachers keep standardised testing in perspective.
14. Great teachers care about their students, and understand the power of emotion to jump-start change.