



The **MANY** Hats of a Teacher

By: Tierra Barlow

Every year in May we show teachers across the country our appreciation for the hard work they do developing youth into young men and women. For all the work that our teachers do why should teachers only receive our appreciation for one week a year when they make a lifetime change in their students' lives. Teachers push students to achieve at levels many students do not believe is possible leading to heightened self-esteem and success. At Clarinda Academy our teachers are that and so much more!

Every morning our teachers come to work with their teaching hat on, but at any moment that hat could be replaced by so many other hats, because our teachers are so much more than just teachers. Almost every day of the week our teachers are the first face that we see in the morning when they are helping get kids out of bed, making sure everyone has brushed their teeth and ensuring that every student has a breakfast. Students will see the kind and caring faces of our teachers throughout the day asking if anyone needs help with an assignment or just how to pronounce a word; many students have learned how to read thanks to our teachers. In science class, James has opened his student's eyes to many of the wonders of the world. In history class, Mike Weber is teaching history that all our students can learn from, helping his classes see how the past really does affect today. When a student hears keys jingling they know that Nancy Rahn is coming to make sure that students are doing the right thing. Anyone can find students burning off all that youthful energy in H.T.'s gym class. These amazing teachers do not stop when the final bell rings, many continue to help their students long into the night.

After school, many teachers can be found out on the athletic fields or in the gymnasium coaching many of our athletic teams. Patrick Freese can be found breaking a sweat in the wrestling room while teaching the wrestlers about hard work and perseverance. You can find a teacher on the dorms playing games with kids, developing healthy relationships and getting to know our students. Our teachers may be in the cafeteria eating with a student asking how their day has been, they may be sitting with a student helping them process and cope with loss or many of life's challenges. Walking the quiet halls of Clarinda Academy after school many teachers will be found in their rooms diligently working on grades, future lesson plans, or collaborating with a fellow teacher on how to make class even better for their students.

Teaching lessons is not just what our teacher's do in their classroom, it is not just science, math, social studies or English, they are lessons in life. These life lessons are what require our teachers to wear so many different hats. Teacher appreciation is much more than a week on a calendar, teacher appreciation is applying the many lessons learned by one of those many hats that teachers wear. Thank a teacher, let them know how much they really mean.