

Connections

I think we have all heard the statement; “It is not what you know but who you know in life.” Most of the time this statement carries with it a very negative connotation as someone has achieved something that they may not be viewed as qualified for. There are times when people are not knowledgeable of the qualifications that another may have, and truly there are times when the less qualified candidate will get the job because of the connections they may have.

I define connections as an established relationship. The quality of relationships varies for all of us. We all have people in our lives that we connect with very well and some people, try as we might, that we have difficulty connecting with.

From the school perspective, I feel it is vitally important for our staff and students to develop and have connections. There is an adage in education that states; “Students do not care what you know until they know that you care.” I think that rings true more in society today than ever before.

It is easy to continue to grind in our own little world, to get up in the morning, go to work, come home do what you must do, go to bed and get up in the morning to do it all over again. The young people in our lives need us to build connections with them and need to learn from our examples. Building connections takes a conscious sincere effort and expenditure of our time. To build a quality connection you need to be present with that other person, this is not a time for multitasking. We have all been in a conversation where when we walk away we feel like we were unheard and what we said was not valued.

Connections affect the quality of education and the educational experience for all our children. Just as a worker who wants to do a good job will be willing to work harder, a student who wants to learn the material from their teacher will learn more of the material. In short, those who “want to” will perform better than those who feel they “have to.”

Take the time to listen when those around you want to talk, give your undivided attention and truly be present with the people around you. Make a conscious effort to develop those connections with the people around you and you will be amazed with the relationships you build.