

If I were Principal for a Day

by Ishi Garg

Have you ever thought of getting the privilege of being a principal for a day? This intriguing thought always appears in my mind. It is like having the superpower of influencing the whole school, changing the school's schedule, introducing new things, and impacting the lives of so many students in a positive way. I understand it's a job of great responsibility, but having spent 5 years in elementary school makes me well-equipped to bring transformative changes if I were a principal for a day. I would implement three main changes in the school that would make our amazing school stand out even more.

First, I would dedicate the first hour to brighten the student's mood in the morning so that students always look forward to school and consider it as the best place on earth. It will help set the tone of the day, and put the students off to a great start. For example, magical Mondays can have "show and tell" of magic, teachers can tell magical stories, or give magical prompts to write. This little change of giving a theme to start off everyday would bring excitement and make students more willing to learn.

Additionally, it is utmost important for students to be engaged in the classroom for effective learning. I would look into ways of making subjects engaging where all the students would be attentive and participate more. I have realized many times that subjects are interesting to a few students but other students might be just physically present, not mentally; they would doodle, or simply zone out. For instance, if students are being taught a topic on Spanish missionaries, they can be made to imagine being missionaries. This interaction would make them feel more connected. They'll be able to relate to the topic and will therefore understand the significance of learning that topic.

Furthermore, I feel students are overburdened from school work, homework, and extracurricular activities, due to which emphasis on physical education (PE) is often neglected. I would make physical education mandatory for all five days where students can choose from a variety of

sports to stay active. Similar to academics, physical education is as important for students' mental growth based on numerous studies. I have personally noticed that on Fridays after we have PE, students are generally more participating because they are more awake and feel more enthusiastic. It puts the students in an active mood to have more effective learning.

In conclusion, if I were a principal for a day I would bring three simple but transformative changes to the school by dedicating the first hour to brighten up the mood, introducing ways to make learning more engaging, relatable, and putting more emphasis on physical education for overall growth of students. Even if I were not a principal for the day, I feel motivated to have my voice heard through our student council about these changes. I hope my principal hears about them, and they get in full or in part implemented in my school.