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June 26, 2015

My Best Teacher

My best teacher was my mathematics teacher, Myung Sook Choi, in the high school. She taught me for two years in the first and the second year and we had met in the class 8 times a week at least including the afterschool programs. I think her class was very successful even if there are some negative things on her teaching skill and materials. Because I would define a good teacher as someone who makes their students excel academically and do well on their test. I believe that’s always right especially if you are a high school teacher.

First of all, Miss Choi was an explainer. Every time she explained the new concept first and showed how to solve the problem related to the new concept redundantly. Sometimes it was boring but she said it was essential because students should experience many kinds of problems to enhance their understanding. She graduated the best university in Korea and knew the subject very well. So I had kind of belief on the way of study she guided and pushed would work on me too.

In the second place, she was the most effective teacher among whole my high school teachers. She knew the subject matters well and gave explanations very clearly. At that times tow or sometimes three teachers took a responsibility for one class including regular classes and afterschool programs. So it was possible students could compare and figure out which teacher’s teaching style was better or worse than others’ to them. There were also other good explainer teachers definitely however Miss Choi was well organized her class always. There were few minutes wasted time for fifty minutes. Usually her class routine was very fixed and wouldn’t be changed as possible as. So students could prepare the class before starting each time and it made me feel comfortable. Because she was so enthusiastic, the first stage on every class was questing and answering the major mathematical formulas. She gave the student who was asked only a couple of minutes. When the student didn’t say the correct answer, she gave a slap with a ruler on the student’s palm as a punishment. This was not hurt at all but embarrassing particularly in the girls’ classroom. She didn’t allow students gave up the mathematics early - during the first and the second year of high school, not the third year - because she thought this subject could be a key subject on the Korean SAT to the humanity part students above all.

Lastly, she seemed to understand the education circumstance in that times. There were over 60 students in each class and also very competitive atmosphere to enter the university located in Seoul. Teaching with only books and chalk through lecture in the tension was not the best way ever. However it could be an effective choice of the time. All of students and teachers knew studying depended on the student’s effort and will and no every students could go into a university that they wanted to go. Therefore there were two kinds of teachers. One was pushing all the students not to be lazy or give up even though the teacher’s reputation was getting worse. The other one was helping only the students who were eager to gain better scores on the subject. If the students didn’t want to study hard, let them did. But I think students are not adult. They are not enough old to make a good decision for their entire life. If the students didn’t give up the hard subject early, they could get more opportunity or options in the future. That’s why I thanked for my mathematics teacher. Mathematics was one of difficulty subjects to me and I could overcome the difficulty because of her teaching method.

In conclusion, I thought my mathematics teacher in the high school was the best teacher in my life and I would be a teacher like her. She was a good explainer and communicated clearly through various examples. She was an effective teacher also. She tried classes were well organized with endless enthusiasm. Although her reputation was getting worse among the students who she taught, she kept her teaching style for all of students. I meet many students who want to sleep or do something fun during class every day. Whenever I see those students in my class, they make me consider what a good teacher is. I really want to be an effective teacher who someone would remember me as one of best teachers in their school days. But I don’t have a right answer yet. This essay became a good chance to think about the question again, and I will not be lazy until I find a best answer.