

Frank- Good afternoon, Hauppauge faculty. I'm Francesco DiFlora and-

David - and I'm David Fresolone- who's ready for Conference day?!

(explosion of applause)

David - Well, I'm excited for Conference Day, and you know why?

Frank - Why is that, Dave?

David - Because that means school starts in just a few days!

Frank - But Dave, school drools!

David - I was hoping you'd say that, Francesco. Allow me to take you on a journey aboard the magic school bus!

Frank - Wowee! That sounds like fun!

David - That it does! You see, Francesco, the need for teachers is at an all time high.

Frank - That's a good thing, right?

David - Well, yeah, it is. Except there's a disconnect.

Frank - Wait, I'm getting the sense that y'all (points) sometimes feel a little underappreciated.

David - Yes, and I think it's our duty to show these teachers, these faculty members, these leaders, these craftsmen of the future, just how much of an impact they've made, make, and will continue to make in the future.

Frank - Wow... That's deep. Well, now that you say it, it makes sense. Each and every one of you has the ability to, and have certainly made an impact on others.

David - Exactly. And sometimes it's not just students! Sometimes it's coworkers, bosses, and everyone in between.

Frank - It's a simple fact of life that one's actions, no matter how little, create such an impact in others. For example, in Mrs. Barry's class just this past year, we touched on child psychology and examined pictures that children drew of themselves. I was so fascinated by it, that I actually asked Mrs. Barry to email me any resources about psychology that I could read on because I was so fascinated. And she did.

David - She took that one step to introduce you to a new field of learning, and how much of an impact did that have on you?

Frank - Well, for one I'm planning on majoring in psychology.

David - Wow. It just shows that one tiny gesture, can lead to a whole world of discovery. It reminds me of a time when I was just getting interested in learning some Spanish.

Francesco, you actually brought me to your 4th period Spanish class, sophomore year, and introduced me to your teacher, Senora Sanchez. She allowed me full access to all the materials that her students were using and she helped me out every step of the way, and next year I'm headed to IB Spanish HL2

Frank - So, you're saying that through one seemingly small gesture, your teacher completely created a new world of interest and in discovery for you.

Both -Wow.

Frank - Here's something that I like to say: education is a two way street. It's not just a teacher standing up there giving a lecture, it's the students receiving those words, and growing from those words.

David - That's like in 7th grade when Mr. Dorsa introduced my class and I to the structure of songs. He taught us about the chorus, the bridge, and verses. That night I went home and wrote like 15 verses about just random things. But that gave me an outlet. Just one lesson transformed me as a person.

Frank - But Dave, I'm sure it isn't just us. We're not the only people who've been so inspired to learn and create from a lesson. There are so many people who have, just not everybody gets a chance to express it in a forum like this.

David - (turns to teachers) So, consider us liaisons of the student population, and the faculty. We want you all to know just how much of an impact each and every one of you make upon us.

Frank - In truth, teachers really form who we are as people. When we recall memories from years ago, we'll often say "oh, that was 6th grade" or "I was in 7th grade when that happened".

David - And there's a reason for that. It's because teachers are like our parents. They're the ones who teach us so many life lessons. In elementary school, the teachers bridge the gap from home to school. The first full time school experience is the most important. We learn how to be people. We create our very first friends, and in elementary school, we learn the most important life lessons that we may ever learn in our lives.

Frank - Then after we've become these little people, we move up into the middle school. A scary scary place, or so it seems at the time. But the best part about going into a place where there are all new kids, is that we're in good hands. In middle school we grow as people. We get a look into the real world and learn invaluable lessons at the hands of teachers who specialize in such education.

David - Then finally we head onto the high school, where specialization begins. What I mean is that during these four years, students find their niches and they really develop a certain individuality that isn't present in the other years. And that is all thanks to you, the faculty.

Through teachers suggesting clubs, and really giving us a personalized approach that allows us to figure out who we are.

Frank - That little spark of inspiration from a teacher or faculty member never fails to inspire us.

David and I actually experienced this first hand when we developed a close relationship with the kindest woman in the world who worked on the cafeteria staff.

Frank - There has to be a reason that you all chose this path-

David - And I'm guessing it wasn't for the salary.

Frank - So, then what was it? Maybe sometimes you find yourself asking that same question.

David - Maybe sometimes some students don't do the homework, maybe they don't seem to be enjoying that lesson that you spent so much time making.

Frank - Maybe they don't seem to appreciate you. But, whether they know it or not, they appreciate you.

David - But Francesco, how can you students appreciate a teacher, if they don't know that they appreciate the teacher?

Frank - Because they appreciate everything that teacher does. Teachers are the ones who make us smarter people. Not only do they teach us book smarts, but they teach us street smarts.

David - Oh! Like in Mrs. Surian's economics class when we learned about mortgages, and how to pay bills. Don't we all just love bills?!

Frank - Or like after Mrs. O'Callaghan's class when she took time to teach us all about seasonal change and why it happens.

David - Every teacher of every subject has the ability to influence and inspire students.

Frank - But not just teachers. Also, faculty and everyone else behind the scenes. We are just so grateful for everything you do.

David - And to show how grateful we are, Francesco and I actually made a rap expressing our appreciation for teachers and faculty in today's society.

Frank - Drop the beat, bro!

(David drops it)

Frank - (looks to side) Wait, what was that, Dr. O'Hara? Oh, okay. So, we're not doing the rap.

David - Oh. Well, just the mere fact that we were gonna sacrifice our dignity and rap, is just more proof of how passionate we are about the teachers in our district.

Frank - We know that teaching isn't just your job. Teaching is your lifestyle.

David - Just as learning never stops, teaching never stops. You're always thinking about teaching because you know that, yes, you all know, that the better you teach, the better the students learn.

Frank- I guess that's the main thing we want you to take away. Your effort and passion is not in vain, and it never is.

David- Ooh! I'd like to make an analogy!

Frank - Oh, here we go!

David - I'm gonna draw upon some physics knowledge that Mrs. Terzella taught me last year, to aid me in telling this analogy. Learning is a pendulum. The initial amount of energy and passion that is put into a lesson, is the same amount of energy and passion that will be received. Because as the Law of Conservation of Education states: the passion of teachers can be created, but it cannot be destroyed.

Both - Thank you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!