



Friday Focus

Carter County Schools

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 28

APRIL 15, 2016

Spring Happenings

- April 15 Program Reviews in ASSIST
- April 16 KOS-SA Scores Released
- May 4-10 Elementary and Middle Testing Window
- May 9-13 High School Testing Window

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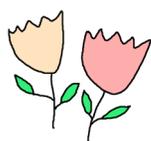
[How Do You Make a Teacher Great? \(Bill Gates Video\)](#)

[Todd Whitaker on You Tube](#)

[Educational Leadership](#)

[Great Schools](#)

[Kids Talk About Great Teachers](#)



Great Teachers=Great Schools

In Hollywood they say casting is everything. If you pick the right actors to star in your movie, odds are better it will be a box office blockbuster. The same holds true for schools. If the staff and teachers are great, odds are much higher the school will be great: A great place to learn and work.

Todd Whitaker (author of [What Great Teachers Do Differently](#)) told us that the teacher is the most important variable in the classroom. "Want to know how to improve your school?" he asked. "Hire great teachers or improve the ones you have."

So, what is a "great" teacher? Last year, our district spent many hours studying characteristics of greatness, implementing strategies in the pursuit of greatness, and examining ourselves and our classrooms in order to determine if we exude greatness. WOW! What a journey! What conclusions did you reach about your own teaching practices? Attitudes? Relationships with others? Do you rank among the "great"?



"Great teachers focus on students first, with a broad vision that keeps everything in perspective." (Todd Whitaker)

Top Three Characteristics

Administrators Seek in Great Teachers

1. A passion for teaching.
2. Soft skills like "resiliency," "self-confidence," "reflectiveness," "flexibility," "common sense," and the "ability to build rapport with students, staff, and parents".
3. Expertise in their field.



What Great Teachers Do

- Great teachers never forget that it is people, not programs, that determine the quality of a school.
- Great teachers have expectations for students, but even higher expectations for themselves.
- Great teachers create a positive atmosphere in their classrooms and schools. They treat every person with respect. In particular, they understand the power of praise.
- Great teachers consistently filter out the negatives that don't matter and share a positive attitude.
- Great teachers work hard to keep their relationships in good repair, to avoid personal hurt, and to repair any possible damage.
- Great teachers have the ability to ignore trivial disturbances and the ability to respond to inappropriate behavior without escalating the situation.
- Great teachers have a plan and a purpose for everything they do. If plans don't work out the way they had envisioned, they reflect on what they could have done differently and adjust accordingly.
- Before making any decision or attempting to bring about any change, great teachers ask themselves one central question: What will the best people think?