

TEACHING WITH PASSION



ESSENTIAL PRACTICES
TO MOTIVATE
TODAY'S STUDENTS

STEVE GILLILAND, CSP

The burning desire to make a difference for students and persist and persevere defines your level of effectiveness. Passion means being able to take the frustration, the roadblocks, the disappointments and the endless stress and still want to come to work each day determined to turn vision into reality. When you *teach with passion*, you are able to inspire and still hold people accountable. Without a passionate commitment, educators cannot last in a leadership role because the needs often surpass the resources available to meet them. Being a successful teacher is not a thing you acquire or achieve. Rather, it is a journey you take your whole career. This humorous, heartfelt and insightful program is designed to unify a school (or a district) around a few core outcomes it wants for all students. If you are tired of planning, or attending, the same old in-service day, then this program is for you.

► Find Your Voice

Your voice is what determines whether people will follow you. Your voice makes all the difference. It resonates with your best intentions and aspirations. It fuels your passion and allows you to rise above the mundane and make a mark. It encourages you to do great work, to be extraordinary. It energizes and unites. You teach by the essence of who you are as a person. Who you are and how you got to that point is the essence of how successful you are as a teacher and what impact you really have on other people. Your *voice* is what determines what people will learn from you and, more importantly, how far they will follow you. Your *voice* gives meaning to every journey, provides growth in every conflict, fuels purpose in every action and, when a moment of doubt occurs, resurrects a student's belief in you.

► Accept Life on Life's Terms

Lessons learned. Wisdom earned. You can only teach people so much. You must be willing to let people make mistakes or they'll never achieve their potential. One of the most desirable characteristics of a person is the ability to view problems as opportunities and setbacks as temporary inconveniences. With this comes a positive attitude that welcomes change as friendly and is not upset by surprises—even negative ones. How we approach challenges and problems is a crucial aspect of our decision-making process and will ultimately determine our ability to learn lessons from our mistakes. All lasting success in life is laced with problems and misfortunes that require creativity and a whole new way of juggling personal and professional priorities and creating balance in our lives. Coping with today and its pressures isn't about working harder. It's about working smarter. You deserve to be healthier and happier. Learning to accept life on life's terms will help you do just that.

► Foster Commitment and Orchestrate Alignment

Most educators spend their time making the inevitable happen instead of putting their energy into exceptional things that create a school's future. The key is to shift the primary focus from teaching to learning. High-quality teaching is of critical importance. However, a foundation must be laid that provides direction both for the school as an organization and the individuals within it. Staffs must develop a consensus regarding their mission, vision, values and goals. Why you exist, what you hope to become, your behavior and the steps you take to create the kind of school you hope to become are the essence of commitment and alignment. Each member needs to clarify the fundamental purpose of the school, a desirable future, attitudes and specific goals that will transform good intentions into specific targets. The core foundation of commitment and alignment will withstand the inevitable stresses only when schools are attentive to mission, vision, values and goals.

► Exchange Personal Autonomy for Collective Authority

The most important lesson to be learned is that teamwork is fundamental to your school's success and that your goals will never be achieved by a loosely knit group of individuals working in isolation. If schools are to overcome their tradition of teacher isolation, teachers must learn to work in effective, high-performance teams. Everyone is a part of the team: administrators, teachers, food services, buildings and maintenance, bus drivers and anyone who comes in contact with the students. And while you know that teamwork is a good thing, you may not know how it really works. Team building is not an easy process to complete, and there is no guaranteed recipe for success. Team building is a process that moves forward through diligent leadership and transforms itself only through experience. The goals of your school will only be met by teams of like-minded individuals who are willing to exchange their personal autonomy for collective authority.

► Care Enough to Know and Know Enough to Care

When you think of the best teachers you ever had, you probably describe them with adjectives such as "caring," "encouraging," "inspirational," "challenging" and "motivating." It is interesting that these same adjectives are used to describe the characteristics we would hope to find in a leader. Leadership is about heart—the universal symbol for caring and compassion. In general, what educators do is plan for, train and motivate students within the perspective of their school's mission or vision for the future. What makes leaders effective is doing their job with competence, confidence and a caring attitude. The entire staff must be servant-hearted, which means looking into each student's eyes and being filled with a desire to help every student fulfill his or her potential. When you care enough to know and know enough to care, you begin to realize that your job is to influence people every day by sharing, caring and listening. Every student matters, and no one should be left behind. Before you ask for their minds, teach with passion.

**“The Most POWERFUL and MEANINGFUL
Message Your Staff Will Ever Hear!”**

Dr. Karen R. Jones, Executive Director, NMAESP

HIGH IMPACT. ENTERTAINING. THOUGHT-PROVOKING. TRANSFORMING.

► Praise for...

“TEACHING WITH PASSION”

“Thank you for your outstanding presentation. We have never had an in-service day that kept people talking weeks after it was over. You made such an impact on our teachers that they are already asking to have you back next year. Thanks so much!”

BETSY FENSKE, CLUSTER V DIRECTOR,
FAIREAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, FAIREAX, VIRGINIA

“I have four words for you—You were just awesome! As I’m sure you could tell from the warm reception and standing ovation you received from our audience of over 1,500 elementary administrators, your message and practical insights on how to find joy in all of life’s adventures was inspiring.”

TRAY KENDRICK, ED. D., CHIEF LEARNING OFFICER
TEXAS ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS AND SUPERVISORS ASSOCIATION
AUSTIN, TEXAS

“You exceeded my expectations and kick-started our school year like no other speaker ever has. Everyone in attendance walked away with a renewed spirit about their job. Thanks for making our in-service day the best ever.”

NEIL HOLLINGSHEAD, SUPERINTENDENT,
MARSH VALLEY ISD, ARIMO, IDAHO

“I have been involved in many past staff development activities. This is the first time I can remember the day ending with the entire auditorium full of teachers giving a standing ovation, wanting to hear more. Thank you for sharing your gifts with our school district.”

PETE VALAMIDES, PRINCIPAL
HERITAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL
COLLEYVILLE, TEXAS

Educational Clients Include:

Abilene USD
Amity Elementary of Centerpoint • Angleton ISD
AR Association of Elementary School Principals
AR Education Service Co-op • Atlanta ISD
Atwood-Hammond CUSD #39
Berkeley Preparatory School • Boise School Board
Buckalew Elementary • Butler Area School District
Calhoun County ISD • Cayuga ISD
Clint ISD • Crossroads ISD
DE Association of School Administrators
Dumas ISD • El Paso ISD
Fairfax County Public Schools
FL Council of Independent Schools • Floydada ISD
Fort Bend ISD • Garland ISD
GA Dept. of Education
Garrett County Public Schools • Grand Prairie ISD
Grapevine-Colleyville ISD • Horizon High School
ID Board of Education • Jim Hogg County ISD
Katy ISD • Kilpatrick Elementary • Laredo ISD
Levelland ISD • Marsh Valley ISD
Maurice Wolf Elementary • Midway ISD
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National Association of Elementary School Principals
NM Association of Elementary School Principals
Oneida ISD • Panhandle ISD • Paris ISD
Pasadena ISD • Pasadena ISD HOSTS
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Region 10 Education Services Center • Slaton ISD
St. Martins Episcopal School • Summit High School
Sunnyvale ISD • TASSP • TEPSA • United ISD
Wellington ISD • Willow Creek Elementary



Some people were born to take the stage when the stakes are the highest and when the audience expects the most. Steve Gilliland is one of those people. As a master storyteller, he uses the power of humor to help teachers understand and embrace serious issues, and in the brief span of a staff development program, he both entertains and empowers his audience. To the superintendent or principal, he is a dream come true—a consummate professional who is easy to work with. He speaks to more than 250,000 people annually and has shared the platform with such distinguished people as Dr. Ken Blanchard, Pat Summit, Rudolph Giuliani, Bruce Jenner and Jack Canfield, founder and co-creator of Chicken Soup for the Soul. His passion is to bring laughter to people while slipping simple nuggets of truth into their hearts, giving them courage to take a look at their challenges, and enabling them to begin to conquer them. Whether he is kicking off a new school year or a district-wide convocation, Steve helps people open doors to success in their careers, their relationships and their lives.



For more information or to schedule
Steve Gilliland, CSP, for your event,
please contact your speakers bureau.

