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YOUR OPINIONS

Teaching is multi-faceted

Editor, the Record:

The average person might oversimplify the teacher's role by confining teaching to the formalized activities of the classroom. The teacher's only task, one might say, is to make children learn by giving assignments, asking questions, encouraging "right answers," chiding the unprepared, and maintaining discipline, the stereotype of teaching.

The teacher asked to describe teaching responsibilities, should enumerate such roles as group leader, planner, tutor, evaluator, club sponsor, counselor, behavior manager, parent connector and trouble-shooter. Teachers have multiple responsibilities and are a major factor in the development of children. They have a right to view their position as diversified and complex, involving parents and children, extra-classroom functions and the preparation of societal members. Teaching is challenging. Most teachers consider it rewarding and the community must realize that education is not exclusively a pedagogical process. It has expanded to include the development of wholesome attitudes, proper channeling of youthful emotions, preparation for an ever-changing world as well as academic preparation.

As people have gained new insights into emotional health, they insist that this awareness be implemented in the classroom. Differences in children relate to effective teaching, so there is a demand for improved educational practices. As industrialization has revised daily living, citizens expect teachers to help pupils meet new technological demands.

Education is expected to mirror society and lead it. Even though teachers still must be significantly dedicated to scholarship, they are expected

the profession, greater realism will be part of their perspectives. It will not be uncomplicated, routine or serene. Rather it will be active, demanding and also rewarding. The community has an obligation to recognize this profession as challenging and offering a firm contribution to the growth of young people and the welfare of our nation.

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