



Detroit Federation of Teachers

ASENATH JONES:

inspiring kids to dream

through teaching and learning

MY DREAM FOR MY STUDENTS is that they become productive citizens, think for themselves and live out their dreams in a society they help create.

I came to teaching after a career in the corporate world. I come from a family of teaching. After a short time in the world of business, I realized that I had been denying the fact that teaching is my true calling.

I love affecting the lives of my students, leaving a lasting impression and teaching them life lessons that open them to a world of possibilities. I still keep in touch with some of the students I had when I first started teaching 18 years ago, and it's so fulfilling to find out about their successes. In my years as an educator, I've found that one of the biggest hindrances to student success is poverty. There are a number of socio-economic issues that are obstacles to teaching and learning.

One of the biggest problems is that some of our students truly don't know their own self-worth—how great they are and how much they can achieve. My job as an educator is to expose my students to their greater selves, to empower them to believe that they can succeed and that they deserve to succeed.

As a teacher at Cass Technical High School, I have students from a range of backgrounds—those who come from fairly affluent families, and those who are coming here from a homeless shelter. I try to help my kids understand that all of them can succeed if given a chance. Every child deserves that chance.

It's time to invest in kids and their dreams

The state, which has controlled DPS nearly every year that I've worked here, needs to pay the school debt it incurred so there's more to invest in the per pupil allowance and we can get the resources students need. Detroit teachers are the lowest paid in the tri-county area. It's disheartening, and more than that, it's disrespectful.

The reasons I've chosen to stay in this district have nothing to do with what is logical or what is best for me personally. There is a need here, and I can make an impact. Asenath Jones is a world history teacher at Cass Technical High School.

