



Detroit Federation of Teachers

LATHA KRISHNAN: inspiring kids to dream through teaching and learning

MY DREAM FOR MY STUDENTS is to create lifelong learners who are passionate about learning and experiencing new things.

As teachers, we have a lot of power to inspire children's minds, and we have the potential to help put kids on the right path. I believe it's important for us to understand their goals and to help make them real.

Over the past 10 years, my proudest moments have been seeing how I inspire my students and influence their lives. It is unbelievable when former students come back and say, "If it were not for you, I would not have graduated." That is so fulfilling. When they tell me that I've helped them by believing in them and even being strict with them, it is amazing to me.

I want my students to know that just because they may come from a family or circumstances where they don't see anyone achieving, it doesn't mean they can't achieve. They can break the cycle. They can be the first.

I always have found it easy to relate to middle school students, even when I taught in India before coming to the United States. Teaching children always has been my passion. But it has become more difficult.

Some of our children have so many grown-up responsibilities that hinder their ability to learn. Sometimes we have up to 40 students in our classrooms, and that's just too many. I often wonder, am I really reaching my students?

It's time to invest in our kids and their dreams

If we are serious about our children's education, then we've got to give them what they need. In many ways, students are like plants. Plants need the correct amount of light, water and earth to grow. Like plants, if children are missing what they need, they will struggle to flourish.

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