

1. TEACHERS HAVE HOMEWORK, TOO.

The average classroom teacher spends 3-4 hours outside the school day planning lessons, prepping materials, reviewing data, and grading student work.

2. TEACHERS HAVE SUPER-POWERS.

Like "Bottomless Patience." External interruptions are the greatest contributor to loss of instructional time. On average, a classroom is interrupted every 25 minutes during the school day.

4. TEACHERS ARE MEAN!

Research shows that allowing children to experience the consequences of their choices, both positive and negative, helps them develop stronger self-efficacy (the belief that they can struggle successfully to reach a goal.)

6. TEACHERS MAKE A LOT.

Well, maybe not financially. But, teachers are compensated in many other ways, as told in this excerpt from educator Taylor Mali's poem:

What Teachers Make:

"I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could.
I make a C+ feel like the Congressional Medal of Honor and an A- feel like a slap in the face...
You want to know what I make?
I make kids wonder.
I make them question.
I make them criticize.
I make them apologize and mean it.
I make them write.
I make them read, read, read.
I make them show all their work in math and hide it all on their final drafts in English...
Teachers make ... a difference!"

12 Things You Didn't Know About...

BEING A TEACHER

3. DURING THE SCHOOL DAY, TEACHERS TEACH.

Teachers cannot hold informal conferences with parents during the school day. Not only are teachers personally responsible for supervising children throughout the day, but they are also professionally responsible for those students achieving mastery of standards in five content areas in nine months. Every minute counts!

5. TEACHING IS AN INVESTMENT.

In its 2010 Market Awareness Study, The National School Supply and Equipment Association found that, on average, teachers spend \$936 per year on classroom supplies and instructional materials.

The second major source of funding for classroom supplies was parents.

7. SUMMER IS NOT A THREE MONTH VACATION.

Teachers are not paid during the summer months, so most educators supplement their incomes by teaching summer school, or sacrificing that income to attend professional development trainings at their own expense.

8. TEACHING IS A PROFESSION.

Currently, in order to earn a *Preliminary Teaching Credential* prospective teachers must first hold a Bachelor's Degree, and then complete an accredited teacher preparation program, including practicum teaching and student teaching. Teachers must also pass assessments in K-8 subject matter competency, reading instruction methods, English Language Development methods, as well as completing foundational training in computer technology and the US Constitution.

Once hired, new teachers must participate in a two-year induction program consisting of on-going professional development and documented personal reflection... in addition to teaching a full school day.

11. TEACHING IS A PASSION.

Nationally, about 25% of teachers are veteran educators, having 25 years or more teaching experience.

Time and time again, research has shown that the number one reason people become teachers is because they are passionate about helping young people learn and develop as individuals and contribute as members of their community.

12. TEACHING IS A MANY SPLENDORED THING.

Teachers find themselves playing many roles throughout the day: nurse for scraped knees, psychologist to injured souls, counselor in times of need, entertainer when energy is low... Mediator between angry friends, negotiator in times of crisis, cheerleader for facing challenges ahead, friend to help carry the load... judge and jury after a choice poorly made, executioner when homework's lost AGAIN, guide when curiosity is peaked, facilitator when discussion swells... and of course always a child's biggest fan.

9. TEACHERS ARE NOT IN CHARGE.

Publicly elected school boards are the ultimate decision makers for schools. They make the final judgement regarding curriculum adoptions, budget priorities, and "determining what students need in order to achieve their highest potential."

To qualify for a seat on the school board candidates must: be 18 years of age, a registered voter, and a resident of the school district.

10. TEACHERS NEED A VOICE.

In the early 1900s, the American Federation of Teachers was founded in response to a movement to "deprofessionalize" teaching. At that time, City Boards of Education drafted policies entitling political leaders and local businessmen to make educational decisions for teachers. Classroom teachers were deemed "too limited" to handle decisions effecting educational policy.

Today, about 45% of new teachers leave the profession after 5 years. They cite insufficient planning time, large class sizes, excessive workload, and lack of influence over educational policy as the main contributing factors.