

The Top Ten Qualities/Tools for teaching at Highland Since 1974

10. **Loyalty:** Staff stayed for years and taught children of former students—I loved when a child entered my classroom and I had taught his/her parent. I hope many of the faculty now in our district will consider staying rather than leaving for other districts. The loyalty shows consistency in policies and practices for Meridian 223.
9. **Caring:** All Highland teachers have shown care and consideration for the students and each other.
8. **Professionalism:** Teachers have demonstrated professionalism at Highland all the years I have been there.
7. **Grade level Teams:** The past several years grade levels have discussed and formulated plans by working together on our own and also during allotted team times. I feel this process is working well for the district.
6. **Discussion and Display:** Chalkboard, white board, Smart Board
5. **Assessments:** In 1974 we gave a standardized test in the spring. The results came back at the end of the school year. The value of this test was questionable. In 2010 we assess all during the year. However, too much assessment gives little time for teaching or reteaching.
4. **Mentoring:** This process has been ongoing since 1974. Without consultation with other teachers, new teachers would be at a loss. Now, there is formalized training to help new teachers, and Meridian 223 adheres to this policy. I sincerely hope this continues. New teachers are overwhelmed; it is not good to lose wonderfully gifted and talented new teachers due to "burnout".
3. **Humor:** This is a characteristic needed for every teacher. Laughter makes teaching more enjoyable. If we cannot laugh at ourselves or laugh with our class it is a sad day for all.
2. **Faith:** I am thankful every day for a supportive husband and family and for the opportunity to have touched the lives of the students of Meridian District 223.
1. **Love:** In college we were told not to mention in an interview that we wanted to teach because we loved kids. Well, if we do not love children, we have no reason to be here!

-Diane Griffith

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