

# What Does Success Mean To You?

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Is it Winning the First Place Trophy or Sweepstakes award? Obtaining an excellent Rating? Winning the Visual Caption? Watching the 8<sup>th</sup> grade student march the entire show in step? 100% Participation through “No-pass, No- Play? 75% retention into the High School Band? Creating a positive learning experience of always doing your Best?

If there was one word that defines success, it would be attitude. Attitude is defined as the way you dedicate yourself to the way you THINK. Your thoughts can be positive, neutral, negative or imbalanced - and you choose them. You choose the way you think, the way you speak, and the actions you take. Positive, neutral, or negative.

*Here are several specific attitude elements and insights that may help you better understand and maintain your positive attitude during those situations, opportunities, and moments when it counts:*

## **Value First Attitude.**

When you take away the 1st Place rating, the student truly only wants to feel valued! Are you thinking about how you can bring value to others BEFORE you set your goals?

## **Can-Do Attitude.**

You're challenged to get a project done or make that big performance. Do you believe you can do it BEFORE you attempt it?

## **Relationship Attitude.**

Do you know it's more than a rating? It's creating a long-term, value driven association with your students. Is your mind set on what you can do to build those relationships?

## **Winning Attitude.**

Do you think about AND believe you are a winner BEFORE you win?

## **Service Attitude.**

To serve is to rule. Are you thinking, “How can I be my BEST at serving others?”

## **Success Attitude.**

Everyone strives for success in his or her own way. A huge part of success is believing that you WILL achieve it. Do you dedicate time thinking about your “success” and what that really means to you?

## **Fulfillment Attitude.**

Fulfillment is a level beyond success. It arrives after you have achieved beyond your dreams and your expectation, and are at peace with your life and your relationships. You may not be fulfilled at the moment, very few people are. But you must think and BELIEVE that fulfillment is possible.

A single decision, made today, can change your future. The program you now have is not necessarily the program you will have in a year or two years or in a decade. And you truly can change it all with a decision. A decision

to create a balanced attitude. A decision to be more disciplined (it starts small). A decision to be a source of positive energy and inspiration to your students. A decision to show leadership rather than play victim. A decision to beat your fears or weaknesses. A decision to shine!

It is easy to get discouraged as you reach for your determined level of “Success.” It's natural to face disappointments and a seemingly endless stream of challenges. That's just life's way of helping you grow and detecting your commitment. The best wins always appear after the biggest tests. Always! “Success,” whatever that means to you, is no accident. And it's easy to forget that successful people didn't start that way. They started off ordinary--with a dream, a plan and goals. Then they made daily 1% improvements. The days slipped into weeks, the weeks slipped into months and the months slipped into years. Their dream grew and became real. Yet the first, and most powerful step, took place in their minds.

Having success and getting to your “best” requires that you act and passionately make bold strides. No one has ever reached his or her success level just by hoping it would happen. Hope is important. Add focus, persistence and, above all else, action and great things begin to happen.

Here's to a “Successful” year!