

Teacher Appreciation

"Teachers' hefty salaries are driving up taxes, and they only work nine or ten months a year! It's time we put things in perspective and pay them for what they do -- babysit! We can get that for less than minimum wage. That's right. Let's give them \$3.00 an hour and only the hours they worked; not any of that silly planning time, or any time they spend before or after school. That would be \$19.50 a day (7:45 to 3:00 PM with 45 min. off for lunch and planning -- that equals 6-1/2 hours). So each parent should pay \$19.50 a day for these teachers to baby-sit their children. Now how many students do they teach in a day...maybe 30? So that's \$19.50 x 30 = \$585 a day. However, remember they only work 180 days a year!!! I am not going to pay them for any vacations.

LET'S SEE....That's \$585 X 180= \$105,300 per year. (Hold on! My calculator needs new batteries). What about those special education teachers and the ones with Master's degrees? Well, we could pay them minimum wage (\$7.75), and just to be fair, round it off to \$8.00 an hour. That would be \$8 X 6-1/2 hours X 30 children X 180 days = \$280,800 per year. Wait a minute -- there's something wrong here! There sure is! The average teacher's salary (nationwide) is \$50,000. \$50,000/180 days = \$277.77 per day / 30 students = \$9.25 / 6.5 hours = \$1.42 per hour per student -- a very inexpensive baby-sitter and they even EDUCATE your kids!) WHAT A DEAL!!!!"

Try as I may, I could not find the original source of this post. Regardless, teachers are undoubtedly some of the most underpaid professionals in our society. Therefore, around this time of year many will celebrate a "Teacher Appreciation" week or day and it goes without saying that a single day or week is not nearly enough time for people to dedicate to showing appreciation to teachers. These men and women are people of the highest value to our society. We have a number of educators, both past and present, in our congregation and I encourage you to show them love and support as they wrap up the school year.

Likewise, in the church, our Bible school, VBS, after school special and all other teachers are undoubtedly of the highest value. To teach is truly a respected act of service (**Romans 12:6-8**). In our church, we have a number of men and women who have placed others before themselves by selflessly teaching week after week. Take a moment this morning, find a teacher, and thank them.

Josh

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