



Golden Apple

## Commitment to Teaching Excellence

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Because I believe that all children deserve excellent teachers, I promise to fulfill, to the best of my ability and judgment, this covenant:

1. I will demonstrate in both words and actions my **respect for my students as individuals**, with gifts and capacities that may not be apparent at first, but which I am committed to help each student discover and develop.
2. I will attend with great diligence to the academic preparation of my students, holding high expectations for each student and the **belief that all children can succeed** and maintaining high standards for my students, my colleagues and myself.
3. I will exemplify in word and deed my belief that **caring, compassion and relationship** are essential to effective teaching.
4. I will **admit when I need help** to secure the success or well being of a student, and I will call on appropriate colleagues when another's knowledge is needed to help a student.
5. I will remember that **I do not teach tests; I teach students**. Nor do I teach subjects disconnected from students. I will therefore use every appropriate means to build upon the capacities and interests each student brings to me, leaving those whose lives I have touched, better for the encounter and inspired by the enthusiasm and knowledge I bring to my subject and my teaching.
6. I will devote myself to helping my students **build the foundations they need to lead successful, productive, ethical, and happy lives** as adults.
7. I will remember that successful teaching relies on a body of best practices and requires knowledge of subject as well as skill and enthusiasm in imparting it to students. I will take as my goal to **become both a master of my subject and my craft**, reflecting on and refining my practice over the course of my career.
8. I am grateful to those teachers from whom I have learned how to teach, and, in that same spirit, I will gladly **share what I have learned about teaching** with those who follow me in the profession.
9. I will remember that **I am a member of a community of professional teachers**, with special obligations to all of my students, their parents, my colleagues and the larger community, those with whom it is easy to work and those who present me with challenges.
10. I will strive to **preserve and exemplify the highest professional standards**, and I trust that in doing so, I will continue to enjoy the rewards of teaching, being respected while I live and remembered with affection thereafter, as a cherished member of a **long, honorable and distinguished profession**.