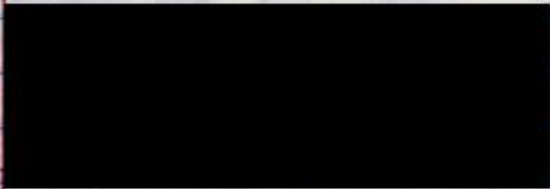


1. Letter from Freshman High School Student

August 15
2006

Mr. DiSS

I want to Express my gratitude for allowing me to make a re-do the final exam. Thankyou for believing in me & for giving me a Secound chance. Infact when I Started i didn't know much but with the extra help you provide me I can know say my multiplication tables as fast as my name & much more. For once Im proud of myself.



2. Letter from Parent of Freshman High School Student)

(Note: Names changed to protect the privacy of parent and student.)

Karen Smith
Portland, OR

Bruce Alton &
Christi Plinski
Portland Public Schools

September 20, 2006

Dear Mr. Alton & Ms. Plinski,

I am writing this letter to relay the experience of my daughter, *Mary Smith*, this year at Summer Scholars Program with William Diss as her teacher.

First, the reason she was in summer school was that she had a very difficult transition her freshman year. Though she has been identified as Talented and Gifted, she failed virtually every class last year at Grant. She started the year with a bad attitude, and made a series of choices that made things worse.

When *Mary* started the Summer Scholars program with Mr. Diss, she found a teacher that achieved tremendous balance between high expectations and accommodating individual needs. Mr. Diss expected students to complete homework, and held firm to those standards, yet was willing to work with deadlines so that students could succeed. **He worked on the basics, such as multiplication facts, which *Mary* finally mastered!** He was willing to work after school hours to allow students to catch up or to get more intensive instruction. Suddenly, *Mary* was no longer “the kid in trouble”; rather she was the student that was improving in math.

Seldom have I worked with a teacher, professionally or as a parent, who has put in more effort and received greater gains than William Diss. Portland Public Schools is lucky to have such a dedicated teacher.

Sincerely,

Karen Smith, M.Ed.

Cc; William Diss

3. Letter from Freshman High School Student

From: #####

To: "wdiss@pps.k12.or.us" <wdiss@pps.k12.or.us>

Date: Monday - January 25, 2010 9:42 PM

Mr. Diss seems like a strict and mean teacher when you first meet him. But after my freshman year was over I appreciated everything he did, even when he was hard on our class. He always believed in us which gave us confidence in everything we did. In the beginning of my freshman year I did not know the times table very quickly, but by the end of my semester I knew it like it was a function in my body. He gave us small tests in the beginning of every class which helped us learn the times table. I never knew how to solve an equation, but now I do. He taught us the steps on how to solve the problem, unlike other teachers he made a lot of steps so we could understand the equations. He might seem mean but as you get to know him he has a sense of humor. He still greets me and gives me a fist pound even though I'm a sophomore now, he will be a teacher I will always remember.

4. Letter From College Student

Mr. Diss, I just wanted to take a minute and say thank you for all the time you put in & worked with me. You pushed me, getting my flash cards was a blessing. I really appreciate you. I will go onward & upward. & you were an essential part of that. You are one of the teachers that made a huge positive difference! Thank you for everything

5. Letter from College Student

Thank you!

From: #####

To: <wdiss@pcc.edu>, <wdiss@pps.k12.or.us>

Date: Tuesday - September 21, 2010 9:01 PM

Mr.Diss....

I just, one more time, wanted to THANK you for all the time and effort you put into helping me last spring. It really paid off. Your way of doing things made me a much better math student and if things are not written down right, I have to re-write them.

Example - write original problem, make sure to note that $x=s$ and $y=s$ when substituting. Do any long hand on the right side of the paper. Show your work with an = sign, line by line, with no mumbo jumbo in between each steps.

I REALLY appreciate you. I appreciate my multiplication tables. I feel blessed to have had you as a teacher.

Thank you again for a job well done.

Try to stay out of trouble with @@@@ @@@@.

Keep up the great work as a teacher!

May God continue to bless you and just know.... to date you are one of my very favorite teachers!

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