

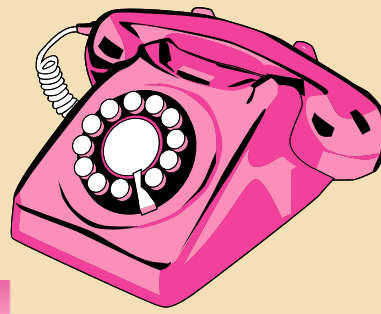
the ups and downs of teaching

By Sophia Grant

On a mellow Saturday morning with breakfast cooking in the background, I interviewed my mother, Edith Grant, about the ups and downs of her career as a teacher. For about 20 years, Mrs. Grant has educated many students from preschool to eighth grade. Currently, she is a second grade teacher for LAUSD. Mrs. Grant also mentors teachers looking to clear their credentials through the ICAP program and is an advisory board member for the Watts of Power Foundation which paves the way for black male teachers to go into the classroom with cleared credentials, a stable teaching job, and extensive knowledge.

To start off the interview, I asked Mrs. Grant why she teaches. She instantly responded, “I always wanted to be a teacher. There is always a need for good teachers. It is a fulfilling way to give back to the community. Through teaching, I am able to help develop future leaders and lawmakers.” I then asked her about what inspired her to teach and why it is important to her. “Originally I wanted to teach so that I could help others,” she answers, “Now I do it for the impact that I see.”

Now that we had gone over introductions and inspirations, it was time to go deeper. “What are some flaws or things to be improved within the school system, and how do they affect you?”, I asked. After a moment of recollection, Mrs. Grant replied, “Politicians making decisions that heavily impact both teachers students. Educators know what is best for their students and themselves.” Next, I asked about her biggest challenges and how she handles them. “Often, students are misplaced in classrooms where the teachers cannot support them to the best of their ability. One of the ways that I combat this is by fighting for the rights of my students so they can be placed in a setting where they can flourish.” She added that she seeks out training for herself on how to best support her students.



By now breakfast was almost done and I could smell it wafting through the room. So to finish off the interview, I asked about some fun facts, and she smiled at every answer. “The best part of being a teacher is when you’re at Target and someone yells out your name. Then you turn and see that it’s a former student smiling and waving at you. One of my favorite parts of being a teacher is getting hugs and smiles from former students and even students that I never even taught.” Her face goes bright as she adds, “I love seeing their eyes go big and bright when they can make a connection from a lesson to their lives.”

One of my favorite things to read about are fun facts. So, I’m going to share some fun facts that Mrs. Grant shared with me. “So I’m really firm with my students and classroom structure,” she starts, “but I make sure to joke with them and give real life stories that relate to the lesson at hand.” Mrs. Grant also notes that one of the best parts of her job is that she is always learning, “I can never get bored because it is always changing.” She also makes sure to validate the culture of the kids that she works with and teaches using culturally relevant material that relates to people of color and culture to make sure that they are celebrated.

