Jensen Roseboom

 I believe that taking true responsibility for student learning means a few different things. For instance, it means that a teacher has to become invested in the children; this means that there must be a desire for each and every student to succeed. Also, it means taking extra time if something isn’t working for a student. If students are struggling, ask them after class how to help them better understand the content, or if they think there is a better way to deliver the content. The final major component that I feel there is to taking responsibility for student learning is that if a student fails then the teacher has failed them. Each student has the potential to pass every class they take with the right amount of help and encouragement, with very few exceptions.

 To be a professional there are a few basic guidelines that I must follow. First, I must take pride in my work. It is one thing to show up and grind out a job day in and day out, but it is another to take pride in the work being done and strive for excellence every single day. Being a professional also means being responsible. This means showing up on time and being ready to teach well before the students arrive as well as budgeting my time to meet student needs. Furthermore, professionalism involves fostering a healthy work environment. This means talking with other teachers, and even becoming friends with co-workers. The best way to get better at something is to learn from others who have already been doing it, so building a healthy community of professionals is vital to my success. Finally, being a professional means being a role model in the community as well as building relationships with community members. As a teacher I will be a figure in the community and will also need to call on members of the community to assist in my students’ educational journey. In order to maintain this good relationship I will exemplify professional traits both in and out of the classroom.

 Finally, a good teacher must display pedagogical content knowledge. This means that the teacher must know their specific area of content inside and out. In order to successfully reach the most students possible the teacher must know their content area well enough to help even the students who struggle with the class. The teacher must not only know his content well, but also have the desire to share that knowledge with the students. By having a deep understanding of the content, I will also have the ability to adapt the concepts to match student interest in many cases. I do not expect all of my students to enjoy the technical knowledge which is why it is vital to be able to adapt to students’ interests. It is the passion to share their knowledge that makes teachers great. The more excitement the teacher shows towards his class, the more the students will want to learn the material. When the knowledge is combined with the passion to teach it, the students will get the most out of the class.