As a teacher it’s my goal to enable student success but also to prepare students for life beyond school and help them realize their full potential. This is really what motivated me to become an educator: to inspire and be inspired. Successful educators approach their work by forming partnerships with students. For this reason, I think an apt metaphor for teaching is a simple handshake.



Much like a student-teacher relationship, handshakes require active participation from both parties. A handshake is incomplete if one party simply doesn’t show up. Instead, a handshake is reinforced and mutually supported by both parties. It should go without saying that its important students need to know they are supported by their teacher. An appropriate handshake is said to be “firm but not too firm”. In a handshake, the sensation in our hands guide us and tell us what is firm. This represents a formative assessment (feedback) to ensure adjustments can be made prior to release.

The physical connection in a handshake is a reminder that, at the end of the day, the best teachers are able to build human-to-human connections.