

2012년 5월 15일 키워드 스피킹 방송 / 주제: 스승의 날과 교사의 권위

Summary

Tomorrow will **mark** the 31st annual Teacher's Day in Korea, with students and parents all showing their appreciation for some of the most influential people in their lives. Traditionally, students **pay their respects** to their teachers by giving them gifts such as carnations as well as singing songs of gratitude.

Currently, Korean schools enjoy top world rankings in reading, math, and science, due to a **highly competitive academic environment** and passionate teachers. According to the OECD, Korean teachers receive the world's highest ratio of salary to per capita gross national income, with the average 15-year career middle school teacher making over \$52,000. Unfortunately, even with the **higher than average compensation**, there's been a surge in Korean teachers applying for early retirement due to **declining levels of respect** and rising **delinquency** among students.

The increasing numbers of violent acts and behavioral issues have become a serious problem as teachers complain they have little recourse due to recent bans on **corporal punishment**. In response, the government has pledged to help teachers and students by enlisting more counselors and with stronger measures against school violence. Some critics believe that Korean schools need **physical punishment to keep students in line** while others see the current trend as a sign for a more ethical and modern education system.

Key Words

1. 스승의 그림자도 밟지 않는다 students shouldn't even dare to step on the shadow of a teacher
2. 군사부일체 monarch, teacher and father are one
3. 스승의 권위가 땅에 떨어지다, 교권추락 teacher's authority has fallen; teacher's authority is no longer respected
4. 교실붕괴 classroom is falling apart; education system is failing us; education system is not working
5. 체벌 corporal punishment; physical punishment
6. (넓은 의미의) 체벌, 꾸중 getting reprimanded; getting disciplined; keeping students in line
7. 공교육 정상화 get the public education back on track; put the public education back on track; focus on public education
8. 교사의 권위 teacher's authority
9. 벽보고 손들고 있다 stand in the corner with your hand raised
10. 수업 후 남아서 반성하다 stay after school; be given detention
11. 촌지 gift given to your teacher as a token of appreciation

More Key Words

1. honorific 존댓말
2. off the cuff 즉석에서
3. weighty 무거운, 심각한
4. to my recollection 기억을 되살려 보아도
5. underqualified teacher 자질이 부족한 교사