

Philosophy of Education

All of my life I have wanted to teach. I have passion for working with children and inspiring others to achieve their goals. At this time in my education and experience in the classroom I hope to work at the elementary level. Although, I can also see myself working in a middle school setting primarily teaching mathematics. I grew up in a teaching household; both parents are educators, in both primary and secondary schools. They have been such an example in showing how vital it is to be in a career you love. I want to be able to impact students at a young age to enjoy and embrace their education, and thus motivate them to reach to their highest potential.

As an educator I understand how critical is to persistently reflect and improve in the classroom. This can be done through diligently working toward professional development and more importantly, reflecting upon my own successes and disappointments. I have dedicated and will continue to dedicate time to become well-informed on the latest and most innovative new techniques and approaches in education. This will be done by subscribing to professional journals and spending time researching educational outlets. In addition, I am constantly looking to use any ideas that other teachers and professionals find successful. I see education as a field in which sharing the best ideas is encouraged. Everything teachers do is for the benefit of their students, and any good teacher should be enthusiastic about supporting colleagues to use any techniques they find to work well. Every class is different and will learn in distinct ways, unique to them; this makes each year a quest to find the most effective style of teaching for the particular individuals in the class. As technology becomes a heavy presence in the world, it is important to take advantage of all of the amazing technology tools readily available to us. Children respond to the opportunity to implement technology in their learning because of its relevance in their lives.

My philosophy of teaching involves specifically targeting every student's strengths, to boost confidence, as well as improving weaknesses. Simply by taking the time to get to know each student and their particular needs this can be done. My view is that it is crucial to tailor instruction and practice to everyone's zone of proximal development. I will strive to teach to each individual, because teaching to the middle is no longer a beneficial practice. Not only should students be engaged in hands on activities as often as possible, but it is just as paramount to create every activity to engage their minds. Everyone will learn differently and will need to be given tasks that most service their educational needs. If I place a student in a particular group and I later reflect upon their progress as less than exemplary, I will not be hesitant in altering the situation and spending more time tailoring instruction to meet their needs for growth. As I hold myself to high standards, I will expect the same out of each of my students. When expectations are set at a high level and influential role models in a child's life believe in their capabilities children can attain so much more.

As an educator it will be my responsibility to move beyond the approach of teaching in isolation. To prepare students for the future they will need to have the ability to delve deeper. Each subject area can be woven together to build, complement, and enhance learning. It is my main focus to provide my students with an abundance of opportunities to love learning and to create an environment that works together and respects one another.