

Educational Philosophy

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Teachers play a very influential part in student's life, and, if done with passion, teachers can play a huge part in a student's all around life in which the intellectual, social, and emotional are able to grow and flourish. My hope as a teacher is to be not just a teacher in their life, but a positive role model and a teacher that excites her students for a love of life-long learning in which my students may know that they are able to succeed. I will initiate success in and out of my classroom by forming relationships, promoting virtues, provide learning environment, be aware of where my students come from, and by collaborating with other teachers and parents.

First as a teacher, I must be living a life that is virtuous. A teacher teaches information, but one element that is often forgotten is the element of self. I believe that in order for a student to have an eagerness to learn and succeed, not only in the class but in other areas of their lives as well, I, as the teacher, must gain their respect and hopefully appreciation from my students. Forming a bond and relationship, a student-teacher relationship, is the first step in order to be able to teach them information. In my own personal experience, those teachers whom I looked up to outside of just the classrooms are the ones that inspired and motivated me to do my best and made class enjoyable, whether I liked the subject or not. This is one part of my aspiration to be a successful teacher.

In addition, I will have my classroom be a comfortable environment in which students are able to learn. I will have a classroom that is welcoming and decorated simply so that the students are comfortable while promoting learning. As the teacher, it will be my job to challenge students and to help broaden their mind and way of thinking. As a Secondary Education Math teacher, it will be my job to help develop individual skills with the subject I am teaching. One of my ultimate goals is to make sure all of my students are able to grasp concepts and apply them in multiple way when trying to figure out a problem. They will also be gaining essential problem-

solving skills that can be used in all areas of their life. I plan to encourage positive group collaboration in that the students are able to learn alongside other peers. I will do this in a way that does not lessen my role as a teacher, but that the students are able to go to one other for help and work together so that they may learn from their own peers. I would say that a lot of the time, most of the learning is done when people are collaborating together, and sometimes students are able to connect better or have problems described in a different language that I may not always be able to do. On another note, students also learn differently. It is important for me to help my students find the best way that they can learn and to integrate and appeal to all of the types of learners which include visual, verbal, and tactile learners. I will use many examples to help my students grasp the concept but while presenting new information, involving the students by asking them many questions and having the open door for them to always ask questions and think for themselves.

Decisions that I make, specifically regarding handling situations with students, is on display not for only other students but to the public. "Classrooms are public, making decisions open to scrutiny...In a sense, we're on stage and our triumphs and mistakes occur in public for all to see," (Kauchak & Eggen, 2014, p. 11). It is important that I handle tricky situations virtuously and be sure to keep in mind the value and dignity of every person so that I may give them my upmost respect. Teachers are continuously asked to make ethical decisions every day. While I may not see moral issues regarding religion or ways of the moral thought process of my students quite as frequently as an English or History teacher, but I will be called to make moral decisions very frequently as I work with my students. These decisions that I make will not only be affecting me, but can also be slightly forming the student's morals and values that I am working with. I will have standards and enforce discipline in my classroom so that the students

may know that there are consequences for negative behavior and also so that they may respect me and their peers; In contrast, positive behavior in and out of the classroom will be recognized. I will also do my best to help all of my students develop values such as patience, honesty, and self-discipline. These values are important to me in the art of learning but also are used in every aspect in life which are important to develop.

In order to be a successful teacher and to help my students succeed, I will need to collaborate with others. First, I will need to collaborate with my supervisors and the ones in charge of me in order that I may be meeting the standards that are required of me and that we, together, as faculty and staff, to create a learning environment where discipline is enforced to better everyone's learning. One disruptive student can hinder many other students so it is important that the student who is disruptive is able to be reprimanded by a higher force when necessary in order to minimize the problem. I must collaborate with other staff members, both in and out of the math department. I believe collaborating with others in the same department is very essential for a student's growth in a particular subject in order that steps are not missed from year to year or class to class and that the students are learning as much new material as possible without leaving out important building blocks. This will be done by having one-on-one time with other teachers within the department and seeing where they stand and where the students seem to stand. I believe working with other staff members outside of my department is important to figuring out how students learn best and also to see how they address problems/situations and how the students react so that I may learn from their mistakes or put in to use what may be working for them or combine it with what I know or what I have learned from others.

Collaboration with parents is also key in a student's success. Parents can be a driving force at home for being successful in a class and can help motivate a child for success. It is also important to be aware of where each student is coming from. A lot of times, a hard or stressful home life will be reflected on the intellectual growth and it is important to know what students may need some extra help because of home situations. In today's age, it will be likely that many of my students will be going home to a single-parent or divorced parent household. Being aware of these differences will be able to help teach by and connect with them.

In conclusion, I strive to be a teacher that motivates my students to be the best that they can be in all aspects of their life. I plan to do this by forming relationships with my students, promoting virtues, collaborating with others, and being aware of my students' needs and where they come from. I hope to be a teacher that inspires my students to have a love for learning and that I may be one that helps to change their outlook on life for the better.

References

Kauchak, D., & Eggen, P. (2014). *Introduction to Teaching: Becoming a Professional* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Pearson.