Philosophy of Education

 Students are the hope for our future. I strongly believe that every person on this Earth has a specified purpose, or “calling.” Over the years, I learned that my purpose is to teach children and help them grow, so that they can one day be well-adjusted, successful, responsible and productive members of society. I believe that in order to fulfill my purpose in life, it is my responsibility to try my hardest each day to build and maintain relationships with my students, let them know that they are truly cared about, and hold each student to the highest standards possible.

I believe that every student is capable of learning, and that it is the teacher’s instruction that is responsible for the presence or absence of learning in the classroom. I believe that it is the teacher’s obligation to enter the classroom with only the highest expectations for each and every student. This being so, the teacher is able to maximize the positive benefits of having daily influence upon his/her students. With dedication, hard work, and perseverance exemplified by the teacher daily, the students will rise to the occasion. I aim to bring an open mind, a positive attitude, and high expectations for every student to the classroom each day. It is my belief that I owe it to my students, as well as to the community, to offer diligence, consistency, and warmth to my students, in hopes that I can ultimately inspire and cultivate these traits in the students as well.

I believe that first and foremost, my role is to teach. However, I also believe that the role of the teacher is not only to instruct, but also to encourage an atmosphere of respect and tolerance. It is also the role of the teacher to develop a relationship with each student, and to off them support, understanding, and guidance. During adolescence, the sudden physical changes that students experience typically lead to self-consciousness and the determination of self worth based upon the creation of comparisons between the student and his/her peers (Mannheim, 2009). For this reason, positive reinforcement and creating personal relationships with students is imperative. It is my belief that when a student knows he/she is genuinely cared for as an individual, and is offered support beyond academics, then that student will truly be able to learn and be productive in the classroom.

It is my belief that every student is capable of learning, and that as educators, we must stop using the demographics and culture of students as excuses for their lack of achievement (Wong, & Wong, 2009). In order to give every student in my class the opportunity to be academically successful, I will create a positive classroom environment in which everyone feels safe and accepted. I will make my classroom culturally responsive, and teach my students the importance of tolerance (The Education Alliance). Disrespect will not be tolerated in my classroom, and my students will know that everyone is considered equal regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or religion. I will use these differences to unite my students, rather than using them as a separation mechanism. I believe that students learn a lot from themselves and their peers. For this reason, groups work will be stressed as important because it allows students to learn not only the subject material, but also cooperation, tolerance, time management, and teamwork.

The newly created National Science Education Standards (NSES) provide teachers with guidelines for providing students with the most appropriate education for today’s society. Regarding teaching standards, the NSES state that teachers should: guide and facilitate learning, engage in ongoing assessment of their teaching and student learning, design and manage learning environments that provide students with time, space, and resources needed for learning science, and develop communities of science learners that reflect the intellectual rigor of scientific attitudes and social values conducive to science learning (National Science Foundation, 2010). It is my belief that I, as a teacher, have the responsibility of applying the NSES for teachers, content, evaluation, and assessment daily. As previously stated, it is also my responsibility to constantly reflect on my own teaching practices in order to ensure that I am always giving students the best education possible.

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