

Educational Philosophy

I have five principles that guide the way I teach and make up my core beliefs on how students should be educated. First, I believe it is my goal as an educator to help students grow into well-rounded individuals that are productive members of their community. Secondly, it is my opinion that in order to create productive members of society, I must teach students 21st century skills in order to meet the demands of our rapidly changing society. Another goal that I have as an educator is to create lifelong learners which I believe can only be done if I challenge every student and strive to meet all students' individual needs. I also know that in order to accomplish all of this it is crucially important to work with students, families, and the community.

The initial purpose of school was to help create good citizens. I believe that along with other purposes, that still remains true today. My students and I will tackle real world issues in my classroom such as hate, violence, poverty, discrimination, love, power, and much more. I will guide students through how to analyze, critique, and draw conclusions about these issues that they will have to cope with in their community. I also think it is important to help students fully develop socially, emotionally, morally, and intellectually in order for them to become good citizens. In my classroom, students will work on their social skills, learn how to identify and deal with their emotions, determine what is morally right or wrong, as well as be challenged intellectually.

It is my goal that every one of my students acquires the tools they will need to compete in the 21st century world in my classroom. I will not only teach students to work collaboratively, but to do so using technology. I will teach them to research properly, create interactive presentations, and publish their work. My students will also be challenged to learn 21st century skills such as thinking critically and creatively, and being able to analyze, critique, and evaluate multi-media texts. I believe that with the majority of employment in this country requiring such skills, it is crucial that my students become accomplished in demonstrating them in order to succeed in life outside of my classroom.

Creating lifelong learners is very important to me because I believe that learning is continuous and that it can and should be fun. My classroom will be a center of support for my students so that they feel comfortable taking academic risks that allow them to grow. I want my students to see risks and failures not as setbacks, but as part of the learning process. I believe that learning should always be as fun as possible and I pride myself on my creativity that allows me to come up with unique ways to teach things. In addition, an important part of creating lifelong learners—in my opinion—is to appeal to students' interests and their life. I always try to show students how what we are doing in class is relevant to their personal life. This demonstrates learning as a fluid process that overlaps into different areas of our lives; it is not compartmentalized.

I also believe that every student can learn and should be challenged. I know that each student learns differently and that students are at different points of understanding, but I believe it is my job to understand where my students are and how they best learn, so that I can meet them there and take them to where I want them to be. It is not always easy, but I believe it is my job to meet all of my students' individual needs as best I can and challenge them to be the best they can be.

Lastly, I believe that in order to have the most success with your students you must work closely with the students, their families, the community, and other faculty. Communicating areas of needed improvement and student performance in the classroom is vital to student success. Students need the support from home in order to succeed at their best and it is my job to try every way possible to make sure their family understands what they need. Communication with students is also crucial because they need to know how they are performing and what they can do to improve. I believe that frequent short conferences with students are very important to their success in the classroom. Working closely with other teachers to build on what they are teaching in order to show students how to transfer learning is also very important to creating good learners. Working with the community also creates a sense of togetherness that bonds the students with the school, their classmates, and their community. If they see the whole community pull together or become involved in the school, they will feel that they are a part of something.