

## Philosophy of Education

I believe that as a teacher it is my duty to teach students according to their personal needs and to provide a healthy and encouraging environment for students to learn and develop. All students are capable of learning and the job of teachers is to reach every student to the best of their ability. I believe that education should include a progressive approach and should be student-centered. Along with focusing on the curriculum, there should also be attention on the interest of the students. I believe that teachers should act as facilitators and students should be able to explore and problem-solve to some degree of independency. I believe that experimental learning and problem solving are crucial when it comes to education; students do not learn just by listening but also through experiencing. An education should prepare students for life outside of school, so it is important to instill in students socially acceptable behavior and etiquette. Respect and trust should be expected from students, along with the teacher. With this mutual respect and trust there are healthy relationships between the students and the teacher. Within this relationship students are responsible for their work and are held accountable for their actions. It is the teacher's responsibility to evaluate each student's progress and behavior with fairness and understanding. I believe that cooperative learning is a beneficial approach for promoting that peer interaction and teamwork. Students' literacy skills and development is highly emphasized in my approach to planning instruction; literacy skills are foundational for both academia and society, so it is important that students are provided with meaningful literacy experiences. If there is inappropriate or unacceptable behavior from students, Win-Win and positive discipline are two models that I believe are effective. The goal of these models is that the teacher works with the students in learning how to manage themselves, meet their needs through responsibility, and develop skills that will help them in the future. If students are having difficulty meeting

these goals, it is the role of the teacher to let the students know that their behavior is not acceptable, and then collaborate with the students to come up with valuable solutions. I believe that it is also the teacher's job to motivate the students; to encourage them to never give anything less than their best effort. I believe that all these attributes describe an education that allows students to develop in the skills of critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication. A strong education provides students with the necessary foundation for their lives, as John Dewey says "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."