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Math 693

Dr. Riedel

Teaching Philosophy

The purpose of education is to help the student. This is very vague, I know, but I believe that it needs to be. Helping the student comes first in my opinion, whether it be in the subject that I teach, or if they come to me asking for help on a more personal matter. Granted, this most certainly doesn’t mean that we should wait on them hand and foot. That is not our job. Instead, we should be there for them in both an educational and also more personal basis. We are human. Too often, students think of their teachers as vampires who simply live in the school building. We can show our humanity by being there for them in more ways than one.

I want to teach mathematics because I care about the subject. I want people to love math, even if they aren’t mathematically inclined. I want them to see the fun of solving a puzzle, and realize that just because everyone makes math out to be big and scary, that it actually isn’t all that bad. I also care about kids. By kids here I mean the broadest form of the word. I care about people who are growing up, because I know that I had a hard time trying to do it myself, and I don’t believe that I’m finished yet.

I believe students learn best by doing. Too often teachers will simply stand in front of a class and preach. As a teacher, I try my hardest to keep the class involved and participating. I try to learn names so that I can call people up to the board so that they can try to teach the class. To motivate them to do this, I’ll often tell them that I’m still learning myself, so if I can stand and teach them, so can they. This also (unfortunately) involved giving homework problems, but not so repetitive that it makes math dull, as this enforces my previous worry of making student’s dislike math.

As a teacher, I hope to help the students grow, and grow myself. I am still learning new things every day, just as my students are. So I not only want to help them grow, but I want to grow alongside of them as well. I hope to make a difference in their lives. I hope that someday they’ll remember me as a teacher and think that I was a good guy, as well as a good teacher.

In conclusion, I thoroughly look forward to more teaching experience. I want to grow alongside my students, and be there to help them along their paths of growing as they guide me along mine as well. I want to make math beautiful and fun for them. And in the end, I just want to be a good teacher.