

Philosophy of Education

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My philosophy of education is that all students deserve a learning experience tailored to their individual learning needs, and it is a teacher's responsibility to provide any support and opportunities needed for them to succeed. Students should also have the opportunity to have access to a safe place, as the classroom should be an educational setting in which students adapt an inquiry-based learning approach while learning to be advocates for themselves and their learning styles. My philosophy also includes that while learning foundational skills, students simultaneously learn social and emotional learning skills, like being kind and being a good friend and citizen in their communities.

One way in which I believe students can unlock their most significant educational potential comes from Vygotsky's theory of proximal development. In this zone of proximal development, students learn the most when moderately challenged. Within this theory, teachers should provide scaffolding initially, eventually providing less as students gain confidence and knowledge. Using these ideas from Vygotsky in my classroom will help me inspire my students to become independent and confident while encouraging them to make connections and ask questions.

My goal as a teacher is to create a learning environment that is comfortable, creative, and engaging. I believe in immersing students in hands-on activities and student-led discussions. Participating in intellectual conversations with classmates and teachers helps facilitate problem-solving and innovative, out-of-the-box thinking. To give my students ample opportunities to succeed, I must recognize their different learning needs and adapt my classroom. To do so, I can implement diverse teaching strategies such as student-based discussions, group work, integration of technology, activities utilizing auditory and visual supports, and opportunities for kinesthetic learning. Through a wide range of differentiated strategies and

instruction, students will have autonomy over how they learn and advocate for their most beneficial learning methods. In my classroom, I will utilize a variety of assessments to keep track of student data, progress, and learning trends. Assessments can also be used as a tool for growth in sharing progress and feedback with students. Sharing this information involves students in their learning journey and instills pride in their achievements and progress.

Creating well-rounded students includes teaching students about the communities around them and how they can contribute. Providing students with opportunities to engage with their school community and the community around them gives them early exposure to responsibilities and civic duties while teaching them to be empowered to help others. This exposure at an elementary level can also provide students with experience to prepare them for their societal roles later in life.

Part of my philosophy of education includes my behaviors and attitudes in the classroom. As a teacher, showing up every day eager to learn, enthusiastic, empathetic, and compassionate allows me to be the best teacher I can be to my students and myself. A teacher is involved with the learning process for their entire career on a personal level. As an educator, I am committed to seeking feedback, constantly adapting my practices, and engaging in professional development to ensure an ever-evolving teaching career. I strive to become a role model to my students, demonstrating how to be a good friend, citizen, and student while understanding foundational skills. I look forward to growing with my students, both educationally and personally, throughout the school year. Through these activities, I can foster a safe, inviting, and engaging environment for my students while facilitating a love of learning. Through providing adequate support and challenges to my students, I can produce life-long learners who can be independent, respectful, curious, and kindhearted.