

Philosophy of Education

For many people, school is a tool. It is a stepping stone to having money, a stable job, and a way to be able to provide for oneself as well as a future family. This process starts around the age of four and ends about eighteen years later for most students in today's society. It is known as the way to success because as a society, we feel that "knowledge is power." Like many millennials in this generation, I feel that I learned many academic skills that appear unnecessary to me as an adult now, and not nearly enough life skills about how to function as an adult. This is a pattern that must be broken by bringing more energy, passion, and love for children and teaching in the school system. Over the years, many schools have lost their power and their sense of identity leaving many children unenthused and uninterested in enriching their minds in a way that will better them, others, and the world that exists around them.

I strongly believe that role of the school is to teach students how to be agents of change and to learn life skills that will bring them long lasting benefits. For third graders specifically, schooling should not just focus on learning mandatory curriculum, but schools should always think ahead regarding students' adulthood and life after school. This should just not be done through learning the academic curriculum, but through implementing life skills such as responsibility, self-esteem, love, compassion, resilience, independence, and patience. Without these things, students cannot function or thrive no matter how high their GPA or graduation rank is. As a future elementary education teacher who desires to teach third grade. Schools should strive to implement both academic and life skills into students so that they can be not only diverse, but well-rounded.

Furthermore, teachers should give students a sense of security and let them know that they matter and are essential to the world no matter who they are or where they come from. This can be assured to every student by developing diverse teaching mechanisms that fit into students' different learning styles, cultural backgrounds, and interests. Examples of this includes doing hands on assignments for kinesthetic learners, art projects for visual learners, and learning academic songs for auditory learners and students who love music. I believe that all students will be served adequately if we give them all a voice and encourage their input for assignments, rules, and activities that directly affect them. This should especially be done for third graders because they are more mature. By this age, students realize that they are no longer treated as "babies" like most teachers treat kindergarten through second grade students. Students have a very important role to be respectful, receptive, and responsive. They must respect themselves, the teacher, and their peers, be receptive to learning new things in the classroom that may appear challenging, and responsive to the teacher's instructions and regulations. Students have to be willing to cooperate in order to learn curriculum.

As a teacher, it is also my responsibility to believe in my students and know that they are all capable of reaching success although some students may lack motivation. For those who do lack in that area, it is my responsibility to creatively think of others way to motive that student to want to do well. I must also respect them fully and create a safe classroom environment to build safe personal relationships with each of them so that students also have someone to confide in. By doing this, especially for children who come from harsh backgrounds and families, I will create a trust and bond that makes learning easier. It is equally important to know individual facts and interests about students such as their favorite color or television show. This is a factor that third graders appreciate very much, and gives them a fun environment to learn in. By simply

finding ways to humor them such as jokes related to curriculum, doing hands-on projects, and allowing them to work with others, I have created an effective learning environment that mandates success.

In a society that is highly diverse and values diversity, it is important for me to educate my children on cultural matters from ethnicity to religion. I must also teach them about social stigmas such as disabilities and physical appearance that some people have no control over. Third graders are very observant and outspoken, so it is my responsibility to teach them to love and not judge those who may be different from them, but to love them. This reduces verbal and physical bullying in schools. In the classroom, it will also be helpful to create a seating arrangement that places students who are very diverse from one another to sit at the same table daily and to have frequent student interaction on assignments and projects that gives them time to learn and respect one another's differences on a deeper level. In order to aid their diverse learning styles, giving verbal tests and an entire class assessment instead of the typical written quiz would be helpful for learners who do not do well visually.

To incorporate participation from families, I would like to send home sheets for families to fill out that share their own interests, hobbies, morals, and cultural information about them and their children to help me better understand how to teach them. Monthly volunteer projects orchestrated by parents to benefit 8 and 9-year-old third graders in other countries, school projects that involve adults, and offering minor weekly rewards for children who had their parents help them with homework or who read a book to their parent are ways to engage them.

Overall, teachers and schools should prepare to teach everyone no matter if they have disabilities, if they are a girl or a boy, or if they are highly motivated or lack motivation. Just as

teachers are diverse, so are students. We should educate and appreciate diversity and not eliminate or conceal it. All students deserve an equal chance and should be well-rounded individuals who can go out and make society better. They should not be hindered by their lack of skills. I am so enthused to impact, change, and redirect students' lives for the better.