

Philosophy of Education: Brittney Curran

The role of school in society has gradually become more important over the years. In the past, school was seen as something that only the upper class sent their kids to, but now education is viewed more like an expectation rather than a privilege. The purpose of schools is to educate students to prepare them for their future roles in society. Education also serves as a socialization tool, since students are surrounded by others their age from elementary to high school, and potentially college as well. One of the best ways we can assure that schools serve all students well is by having a set of minimum standards and regulations that all schools should be required to follow. Each school can create stricter rules if they desire, but there should certainly be a foundation for schools across the country so that students are getting the best education they can possibly receive.

The students' role in his or her education is most importantly to be an active learner and to absorb the materials taught by the teacher. Students are also responsible for establishing the classroom environment. For example, the teacher may have to shift his or her teaching style depending on the types of students, personalities, and backgrounds. We can assure that students are prepared to assume the role of learner by clearly stating the expectations to the students at the beginning of the year. For example, as an elementary school teacher, it would be most beneficial, in my opinion, to verbally and visually state the rules that the students are expected to uphold throughout the school year. This could look something like discussing the expectations with the students the first week of school, and then hanging the expectations on the wall around the classroom so the students are always reminded of their role as the student. Some practical examples of these rules could be that students aren't allowed to talk unless they've raised their hand and have been called on, or that they must be kind to the teacher and their classmates.

Telling students how to assume their role in his or her education is the best and most practical way for them to be prepared.

The main role of the teacher is to be the facilitator of the learning. One way that is very beneficial for the teacher to promote learning in the classroom is to encourage critical thinking. If a teacher teaches a kid how to do something and has the students come up with their own way of problem solving, they have a much higher chance of understanding the concept than if the teacher just worked through a few problems and gave them the answers. Students learn best when they come to a conclusion on their own, and this is the role of the teacher to help the students do so. He or she is also responsible for fostering relationships with the students inside the classroom and allowing him/herself to be viewed as a leader and a mentor to these young kids. In my opinion, there is a difference between a teacher being friends with his/her students, and a teacher who has fostered a relationship with his/her students. Kids are much more likely to respect and listen to their teacher if they have a positive relationship with him/her than if the teacher never made an effort to get to know his/her students. Another thing the teacher has to be ready for is to adapt the lesson plan based on the type of kids he/she has in the classroom. As mentioned above, the different types of students may require that the teacher does more hands-on assignments to keep the students engaged, or it may mean that the teacher has to teach them something other than what was planned, depending on what they did or didn't learn in their previous grades.

One of my personal goals for my future as an educator is to teach in a classroom with a diverse population of students. Diversity can refer to physical diversity such as having students of different ethnicities and background, but it can also refer to learning diversity. This means that I will have to be mindful of all students and their backgrounds, and most importantly become

aware of the best way to teach, assess, and manage the class. One common theme I've noticed throughout this philosophy of education is recognizing that not all children learn the same.

The diversity of families and backgrounds of the students can play a large role in how teachers include the parents in the education of their children. Parent involvement is very important in early child development. It is the teacher's role to encourage parents to continue the lessons outside of the classroom to promote more learning. Since there will be a vast variety of parents, the teacher can reach out to each student's families and give them a say in what they want their child to learn at school, so they would be more likely to continue talking about it at home. Also, if the teacher lets the families know weekly what they are going to be learning in class, it will allow the families to follow up with their children on what they have been learning.