

Cassidy Brewer

Spring 2018

TE 2003 Intro to Education

Philosophy of Teaching

I was in the seventh grade when my father got a new job, and I moved to a new school district. My new school did not have the extracurricular activities I normally took part in, and being a smaller school, most of the teachers had some relation to the students. Having no family ties, moving in the middle of the year, and not having my usual activities, played a major part in my attitude towards my education from this point until my junior year. I felt like an outsider, as if I shouldn't be there and this mindset affected my role as a student and a kid in general. It wasn't until my English teacher took an interest in my writing that I began to care more about my education. If I had had a teacher show that kind of interest sooner, I believe I would have taken things more seriously. I hope to be that teacher one day. I want to ignite a fire for learning inside a child's mind. I plan to teach anywhere from kindergarten to the third grade. These children are impressionable and need to have a positive learning experience from their very first day, to their last.

Many parents in society view schools as a babysitting service rather than a place where children go to learn. I even know of some that view schools as an unnecessary expense. As a teacher, I view the roles of schools much more seriously. While for some it may be a child care service or a waste of time and/or money. I view it as a place for children to expand on their knowledge, make life long connections and even escape the stress of life. The purpose of education in these schools should be to prepare students to be productive, and to build their knowledge and character. As a teacher, we can assure that schools serve all their students well and equally by assessing our own thoughts and actions, as well as our teaching methods.

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Any student I ever come in contact with will be a young individual with feelings, the ability to learn and a mind that will be molded based on their experiences during their years in school. I must view them with respect and as if they have the potential to go above and beyond in life. In order to succeed, my students will have to assume the role of a responsible and motivated individual. They must put forth an effort in their attendance, studying habits and overall attitude towards themselves and those in the schools. There also needs to be a sense of understanding and respect between the students and the teachers. With this mutual respect, I believe the praise and encouragement from myself and other students will help to prepare a student to assume that role. While it is a teacher's job to teach and motivate the student, it ultimately rests on the student to take an active interest in his/her education. This leads me to what I believe my role, as a teacher, is. I view a good teacher as an extension of the family. For around ten months out of the year, teachers see their students as much, if not more, than the student's own family. A teacher should not teach just to receive monetary payment, but the joyful payment or making a difference in the life of a child. I recently took a quiz to see what my teaching perspective is. According to the quiz, I have the perspective of a progressivist. I feel as if this is an accurate portrayal of my personal beliefs, shown in the above paragraphs.

Diverse families are becoming more and more common in schools across The United States. America was once known as a place of refuge and still is for many. As a teacher, my primary responsibility in a diverse society is to instill a love of learning in all my students, no matter their background. My curriculum, instruction, and classroom assessment would be catered towards all the families I will have in my classroom. For example, I plan on sending out a weekly schedule. This schedule will contain updates, homework, and important reminders. If I

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had a student whose parents spoke little to no English, I would make sure that child's weekly schedule was translating so that the parent could understand. When working with a child, that understands little to no English, I will make sure directions are given in a way that is easy to understand. I believe that it would also be my responsibility to work more one on one with this child.

I plan on being the teacher that motivates and inspires each child that comes into my classroom. I want the things I teach them to take them beyond the schoolyard and into the world. When I have been teaching for years, I hope that my past students come back, share their accomplishments with me and say, "Thank you for being the helping hand I needed."