

Damaris Montoya

Philosophy of Education

Annually, parents send their children to school in hopes that their child will have their educational, social, and intellectual needs met through their education. As a sixth-grade teacher, I believe students need instruction and experiences in the classroom in order to be successful in their educational and future endeavors. In addition, I want students to have sturdy foundation of knowledge and experiences to build upon throughout their lifetime.

School should be a place that provides a safe and positive environment, which encourages growth in the developmental stages of an individual. I think schools in our society should provide the student with an education in several aspects of their lives. I believe that education should be a foundation that is built upon the following: knowledge, social-emotional learning, experiences, values, beliefs, perspectives, skills and habits that will help support the whole child. Education helps a child find purpose in who they are and who they can become. Each individual brings different talents, gifts, and perspectives into this world. I think education can help the individual improve and expand their knowledge, talents, gifts, and potential, which helps them find their worth. Through this they can contribute to their societies, communities, countries and families, which can help transmit to future generations. I believe this can help prevent an ignorant society. It can help a person be actively engaged in their lives. As an educator, I believe this is how we help a student develop independence and become successful individuals in the world.

Schools should provide excellence to each student by providing equal and quality education to all. My belief is that in order to provide this to our future generations, we need support from our state and local governments. I think our governments should find ways in

providing the best quality education through funding and research. I think we need an administration that will support and fight for the rights of every student and teacher. I believe that the best programs and curriculums should be offered to our students and teachers. School should be an environment that students feel is the least restrictive. Programs should help meet the academic and behavioral needs of the individual through correct services. This goes from providing recess times, lunch times, and schedules, which support the developmental stages of the child. I think providing the best books, materials, technology, and hands-on facilities, such as STEM labs, gyms, etc. can open worlds for our students. I think it is important that all types of students are welcome into school districts. This being said, a school should provide appropriate services, such as special education, therapy services, English Language Learner services, and counseling services. In addition, I believe that parental involvement programs will strengthen communication and create a culture for student success. Parent involvement is an integral part of every student's education. I believe that if we support our parents, they will support education and teachers within the walls of their own homes. If schools assure the well-being of the student in education, we can have hope for a better world in future generations.

As I become a teacher to future students, I want to make sure I know and students know that I see a potential they do not see in themselves. A potential to grow to be a driving force in their own lives, in their communities, family, and in the world. No matter what their background, who they are, and what they have done; what matters is who they can become. I believe a student's role is to find purpose in life, a purpose in learning, and to develop to their potential. They are to gain knowledge and experiences that can help them grow, face challenges, and endure to the end of their lives. As an educator, I can help students prepare for this role by

making sure they are building a foundation of knowledge, but also having the hands-on experiences they need for them to find truth in the content being instructed.

My role as their teacher is to be a facilitator and a mentor, in order for students to fulfill their role. I am someone who helps and invites them build a foundation to build upon in their lives. I am there to help provide instruction and supports to meet their needs as an individual. I believe that as a teacher it is important to encourage life-long learning, active engagement in the classroom, self-motivation and self-regulation. It is important, that I, as their teacher, teach them values, habits, skills and knowledge they will learn for a life-time. My responsibility is to provide a safe, positive and engaging classroom community that provides learning experiences.

A motto that I lean on to and hope to apply into my curriculum, instruction, assessments, and diverse classroom, is to “teach people, not lessons.” I think it is important to, yes, be prepared and know the content to be taught. However, I believe it is important to ponder on how my students can dissect and relate to the content. Each individual is different and it is my duty as a teacher to teach and instruct them to their learning styles. It is important to me, to apply differentiated instruction into my curriculum and assessments. I want them to learn how to set and make goals to help them progress in education. I want to set specific expectations, in order for my students to know what is expected of them. I think it is important to teach the content (basics), give them experiences to relate to, set commitments to keep working on the content outside of the classroom and follow-up with what was learned. I want to transmit in my instruction that just as education is important to me, it should be important to them. No matter who they are, I hope that my students feel that their voice is heard. As a teacher, I want them to learn the skills to be able to apply into their personal and work lives. I want them to realize that I take their experiences, ideas, questions, and interests into account. It allows them to open up, be

motivated, contribute, and discover in the classroom. It is important that through my classroom management, every day they come into school knowing that they matter and are of worth. I hope to apply limited positive reinforcements to help develop intrinsic motivation. I want to connect the knowledge to my students individually and to their needs, in order to promote life-long learning.

As I mentioned above, parent involvement is an important part in assuring the student is receiving quality education. It is my responsibility to involve the family in their child's education from the start. They need to know that my classroom is not only a safe and positive environment for the student, but for the parent as well. For example, I can greet them with a positive note the first time I meet them and get to know who they are. I want them to know that I am a support to their parenting and child's education. I am there to answer questions, help them know expectations, standards, and provide supports that will help continue learning in the home. I believe parents should be given opportunities to be involved in their child's classrooms. I want parents to be provided with volunteer opportunities and decisions made in the classroom about their child through effective communication. This can come in various forms, such as a text, call, communications apps, and newsletters, depending on the cultural environment and accommodations of the family. If a parent cannot be there for school activities, I want to make sure I take pictures and videos to send to the parent to always include them. To me, it does not matter what background, origin, ethnicity, culture and status they come from, there should be respect between the parent and I. I want to make sure that every interaction begins and ends on a positive note with the parent. My hope is that we can both collaborate together for the success of the child.

I believe applying my philosophy of education can provide my students with equal and quality education. I want to ensure that every student I encounter will be able to find purpose and success in their own lives. There may be few Mozarts, Albert Einsteins, Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, and Fred Mercuries in this world, but I believe every individual can contribute to our society only founded through education.