

Hope Barnes

My Philosophy of Education

A school is not only a place to harbor learning, but a place to make meaningful relationships to one another. I believe that the purpose of education is to provide a safe and definite way for students to grow by discovering and expanding their knowledge. All students must be treated as equal and important individuals that have a voice and are heard in order to ensure that a school is serving its purpose. The teacher's role in education is to guide the students academically, socially, and mentally. It is in my beliefs that the atmosphere a teacher provides to their students should encourage discovery in three fundamental ways: the discovery of themselves, the discovery of interesting and exciting new information, the discovery of different people and diversity.

The student is first and foremost an individual with their own strengths, hindrances, and way of learning, and each child needs to be taught with that in mind. The role that students have in education is to actively participate in their studies and allow themselves to expand their knowledge of the materials as well as their peers. The only way to assure that all students are prepared to assume their intellectual role is to provide them teachers that actively mold their curriculum to fit their student's needs. This means that the teacher not only encourages the students and sees them as individuals, but also stimulates their creativity and allows the students to have a say in their studies. The classroom should be a place the student feels open to express their own ideas and find their own voice in their learning.

I believe that curriculum should be centered around the student's needs academically while still allowing the individual to discover things that interest them. A teacher should form a relationship with each student and assess their strengths and weaknesses academically as well as in

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their social endeavors. When the student's needs are really understood by a teacher, it shows the student that they have their own voice and are seen as an important human being. One way that students can take control of their learning is to have open discussions with their teacher and one another. The teacher can encourage this by having the students lead class discussions, and, in doing so, the students will learn so much about themselves and their classmates. I would design my classroom to be an open space for discovery by having it inquiry based. This means I would allow students to ask questions that intrigue them and encourage their inquiry in my curriculum.

A classroom that encourages the individual student's voice would build a community in which they feel free to express themselves. Understanding one another is the most important step in respecting each other. As a teacher, respect is something that I will not only demand the students have for me, but also themselves and one another. This can be done by setting classroom rules that are thoroughly stated and enforced to every student. Having rules that are fair to each student and do not bend for any individual shows the students that they are all equal and should respect each other as so. The respect that students hold for themselves and their classmates allows a safe and welcoming environment for all diverse learners to practice their right to discover and grow. It also allows the students to learn about each others differences and grow as individuals because of what they learn.

As a teacher, I want my students to look at learning as a way to better themselves in all aspects of life. I do not want them to see the school at which they spend most of their day as only an obligation; I want it to be a place for them to grow and discovery wonderful things about the world and each other. I believe that creating a fundamental love for learning in the early years of a student's life will stay with them for the rest of their schooling and beyond. In the same sense,

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teachers should not just see teaching as a job, but as a way to positively impact students that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.