

Katherine Koons

Philosophy of Education

To be a teacher, it takes a special type of person. I do not believe that just anyone can become a teacher. When making the decision to become an educator, it says something about who you are as a person. It gives you a firm reassurance that you are influencing and changing the lives of our future leaders, police officers, doctors, etc. A teacher is a friend, a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on, as well as a parent at times. To be a great teacher, you must possess the following traits and be able to perform the following actions needed to successfully shape the lives of your students: Professionalism, curriculum, teaching methods, classroom management, and assessment.

Professionalism, in part, is looking your best for your students, colleagues, and superiors. Teachers are expected to dress in an appropriate manner that shows respect and virtue. We, as future educators, must also perform professionally. Our initial role is to educate young minds, but we must also develop a good rapport with parents, colleagues and employers. Being respectful, articulating in a professional manner, as well as performing as an educator that is appropriate for all ages, is key in professionalism.

When teaching a specific curriculum, we teachers, need to first learn the curriculum. Curriculum is the knowledge and set of skills that our students are expected to learn while in our classroom. To properly educate our students on the curriculum, we should know it inside and out. You wouldn't teach a subject that you know nothing about without doing your research first.

I believe that to be able to properly educate our students in what they need to learn, we must first be fluent in what we are teaching them.

As a teacher, I will have infinite ways to educate my young learners within my classroom. I don't want them to do worksheet after worksheet that I have just copied that morning. I want to teach my students with concrete examples and learning tools. In my observations this semester, I have noticed how some teachers are teaching their students phonics. A few of them allow their students to go anywhere in the classroom (by a window, glass door, or on their desk) to write and label their phonics words with dry erase markers. This to me is so important because not only are they up on their feet and moving, but they are not bound to their desks all day. I want to be the teacher who has a visual aid or hands on activity that will keep my students motivated and eager to learn what is being taught.

I believe that a good teacher is someone who can play the role of her student's friend as well as an authoritarian. Creating that positive rapport on the first day of school is a crucial factor in gaining the respect of your students. A classroom management strategy that I witnessed in my observations that I will be using in my classroom is the use of clips with my student's names on them on a behavior chart. Every student starts on a neutral face at the beginning of the day. Good behavior clips up to a smiley face, poor behavior clips down to a sad face. Another classroom management strategy is the use of call and repeat. I will say a word or phrase such as "1, 2, 3." and my students will respond with "Eyes on me." They will then be expected to stop what they are doing, be quiet and turn their attention towards me. We must instill the fact that we are there to help our students, but poor behavior will not be tolerated in the classroom.

From being a parent, to having much younger siblings, I have learned that all children are different. They all learn in diverse ways and may require assessments that are different from

others. As a teacher, I will find a way to ensure that every student is learning what I am trying to teach them. If that means creating a different type of test for each student, over one topic, then I will do what it takes to make sure my class is getting the best education that I can give them. We test to ensure that all learning goals are met. Sometimes, even if we feel as though we have taught the subject without error, we may have to revisit the topic and reteach it in a different manner to guarantee that all the students have learned the curriculum properly.

As a parent of a child who struggles some in school, I want to do all I can to help him succeed in life. As a teacher, I will want all my students to succeed and learn what I am teaching plus more. It is so much more than walking into a classroom and reading from a textbook. A teacher has heart and a selfless soul. I want to be whoever my students need for me to be to help them exceed their goals and prosper in the future.