

Philosophy of Education

Children are the future of society. This isn't an opinion or an argument, it's just a fact. One day, when my generation is long gone, the children of today's society will take our place. They will be the new scientists, doctors, politicians, fast food employees, teachers, and accountants. They will take the knowledge that they have been given and make the best of it. They will inevitably improve on this knowledge, discover new knowledge, and undoubtedly disprove some things thought to be true today.

I believe my job as an educator is to prepare my students for this future. I will strive to create an environment where each student feels safe; free to express ideas and explore the boundaries of their knowledge. Every student learns differently. I hope to meet every student's learning needs by differing methods of instruction. Class projects with inquiry, discussions, and discovery learning are just a few methods I intend to use to help meet these needs. Each student must grow into becoming an independent learner, as well as working cooperatively in groups. Creating responsible, independent citizens is necessary for a functioning society, but creating citizens who can excel on a team leads to a thriving society.

I will strive to create a curriculum that will guide students to self-discovery. Teaching standards in a lecture setting is necessary, but I believe learning is best accomplished when a student gains knowledge through personal exploration. I see the classroom as a gateway to the rest of the world. Students should learn about world issues and be encouraged to innovate. Project Based Learning is one way I intend to accomplish these goals. PBL allows students to start creating solutions for real world problems. PBL is an amazing way I can access and assess my students' prior knowledge and teach important educational standards. It is important to guide

students to the realization that they can make a difference in the world now. They've don't have to wait until they become an adult. They can start campaigns to change laws, present ideas to their local city council, or even just grow a flower garden to aid in bee conservation. PBL creates a sense of involvement that not only helps students to retain information, but also inspires a natural desire to dig deeper and discover more.

Classroom management is a large part of any teacher's job. I intend to start off the year with classroom guidelines clearly stated, this will give a sense of security in knowing what is expected. I hope to allow certain class rules to be created and voted on by the students, creating a sense of ownership. Prevention of disruptive behavior can be aided by actions such as proximity control and eye contact. A class with respect and clear guidelines will allow me to slowly guide the students from a class environment of teacher-guided inquiry into one of student-guided inquiry. This being said, if students are fully engaged in projects and learning, misbehavior is much less likely.

Teachers are tasked with a lot of responsibility. We're tasked with teaching standards, inspiring creative thinking, and encouraging critical thinking. We are asked to teach students responsibility and that there will be consequences for every one of their actions. We have students from different cultures, home lives, and educational backgrounds. We must include everyone with respect and care, meeting each student's educational needs. I think our most important job, however, is to inspire a love of learning. Ultimately, I know the students will leave my class and then the school. I only hope that I can instill a love of learning into their very being, so that they will never cease to crave more knowledge. I can teach facts and figures to students and insure that they memorize subject matter well enough that they pass important tests, but unless they

grasp the importance of learning, their education will be incomplete. They will go into the world, eventually forgetting things like what Pascal's triangle and entropy are and they will stop searching for knowledge. As educators, I believe that we need to inspire lifelong students because in the end each student decides when and if their education ends.