

Philosophy of Education

All teachers should have a philosophy of education. It is our beliefs of how education works that really benefits our students the most. When we know what our personal beliefs are involving education, we can better stick to what we believe in and fight for what our students need in order to succeed.

I believe that all professions should have some sort of professionalism involved and teaching is no exception. It is important to be on time. If we want our students to be on time, then we should be there *ahead* of time in order to prepare everything we need for the day. Teachers have to set the example. We, as teachers, should also be dressed properly. I do not believe that we have to be in complete formal wear, but I do think that we should be dressed well enough to distinguish ourselves from the parents and students and to show that we are professionals. I do believe, however, that there are times when we should be allowed to dress more comfortably; field day, field trips, casual days. Another aspect of professionalism that I believe some people forget about is proofreading letters that are being sent home. Again, we have to set the example and if we want our students to use correct grammar and spelling, then we should be making sure that we are doing the same. Of course we cannot be perfect and obviously we will make mistakes, but I think the effort should still be present.

Curriculum is pretty important and I prefer the idea of having curriculum being uniformed across the district. In the district I work in, the kindergarten teachers are teaching the same letters per nine weeks and I think it works really well when students are changing schools within the district. I like this because the students are not

extremely confused when changing schools and can jump right back in where they left off. Although I believe that curriculum should be the same across the district, I do not believe that teachers should be told how to teach it. Different teachers have different styles and they should not be forced to teach things a certain way. While I do believe that curriculum should be uniformed, I do think that teachers should be able to have the flexibility to add other lessons in there. I learned a lot of good life skills and lessons from my greatest teachers. For some students, the only time they will hear these lessons are from their teacher. I really dislike the idea of teaching for a year end test (Benchmark, ACT Aspire, etc) because it makes everything seem so rushed and teachers do not really get to add in those extra things.

My philosophy on teaching methods is that there are many different teaching styles depending on the skill that is being taught. I think that we all have our distinct teaching styles, however, I think it is important to realize that we will be in a classroom full of a wide range of learning styles. We should look at how our students are reacting to our methods and then monitor and adjust as needed. I also believe that we should be as hands on as possible. Learning can be fun and I think sometimes teachers forget that. Group work is a teaching method that I think works well. I like the idea of group work in the classroom because it is good to learn early on how to collaborate with a group. It is a skill that will really help our students after their schooling is over. I believe the methods we use should transcend school.

Classroom management is so important and also my biggest fear! I recently observed a classroom that had so much love and warmth, but was also so exciting and well ran. I believe that all classrooms should be welcoming. I believe that teachers have

the responsibility to create this environment. Students should know how to react in almost any situation (how to ask to go to the restroom, how to sharpen pencils, etc) and this foundation should be built within the first week of school. Teachers should also manage student to student interactions. There are too many tragic stories of students causing harm to one another or even to themselves. Teachers should not accept any form of bullying and shut it down as soon as it happens.

I never really considered assessments before taking this class. I was a good test taker as a student, but as a teacher I'm sure it will be extremely rare to have multiple students who are a.) good at taking tests and b.) prefer tests over other types of assignments. Therefore, I believe that there should be multiple forms of assessments. For our students who are not good test takers, it may seem like they do not know the material when in actuality they do. We would be doing a great disservice to them by only assessing them in one manner. Observations, projects, papers, and games over the subject are all different ways that teachers can assess students and give them a chance to really show off what they have learned. I always loved those classes that gave us the opportunity to choose what kind of assignment we wanted to complete and I believe this helps students feel more confident in the classroom.

While these are my current philosophies, I do believe that after a few years of actual teaching these may change and become more fine tuned. I'm firm in some of my philosophies, but flexible in others and I think it will be beneficial for me to work in the field and learn more seasoned teacher's philosophies. I hope these philosophies help me to teach my students in the best way possible.