

Philosophy of Education –Sydney Sweat

From preschool to college, a person spends their life gaining new information and becoming educated. Education is not only extremely important in society and life, but also in discovering oneself. One of the most important and long-lasting skills a person can acquire through education is becoming an efficient problem solver. An uneducated person isn't as an effective member of society as an educated person. Education is much more than just remembering facts, it is learning how to contribute to the world, how to use logic, and how to see more than one side of an issue. Education also contributes to a person excelling in a career due to many jobs requiring the same or similar skills. Education helps enlighten people to become productive members of society. It is the job of schools to best equip their students to become future leaders. Schools must develop the desire for life-long learning within their students. A student's role in the classroom and life is to learn and continually grow. Productive members of society are always searching for new problem-solving skills, new information, and new ideas.

Within the school, a teacher must be open and willing to create an environment for her students in which they will thrive. This is especially true in middle school where students are at a new stage in life and they have to rediscover themselves as their bodies and minds are changing. When a classroom environment fits the students, they will be most successful. Classrooms need to be welcoming, stimulating, and engaging without taking away from the lesson presented. To gain the most knowledge possible, the students must have a classroom that develops a positive attitude and strong work ethic within each child. Having the desire to teach sixth grade, I will need to personally know the backgrounds of my students and learn the best method of educating them based on their needs. Once students start discovering more about themselves, they can use

their strengths and weakness, interests, and to priorities to begin to choose career paths based on their educational goals.

A teacher is very important in making her students an educated and valuable member of society. A teacher that knows her material and is educated in the subject matter will be the key to her student's success, but there is so much more to educating a child. Teachers must have a belief in the students in her class, must get to know those students personally, and must reach each child to touch lives. A teacher needs to embrace and understand the diversity of the students. Diversity comes from anywhere: home life, race, culture, social class, and beliefs are all differences that teachers encounter. When a teacher values diversity, it allows the classroom to grow and fulfill its maximum potential. Becoming acquainted with the lives and personalities of the students will give the teacher a way to be able to make lesson plans and activities based on student needs. In my classroom, respect will be very important. Despite their differences, I'll teach my students how to respect and coexist with people different from themselves. Eventually, they will learn everyone can play a role in society's success.

As a possible future math teacher my lesson plans and classroom work needs to benefit the entire class and not just a single type of student. Multiple examples shown in different styles allow students of different needs to grasp the concept better. Having a graph, word problem, manipulatives, and a simple number problem are different ways of demonstrating the same problem and same solution. One student may learn better with a word problem, while others may learn best with a graph. Talking about a problem, demonstrating a problem, using manipulatives, and then have them solve a problem will allow kinesthetic, auditory, reading/writing, and visual learners to thrive. Having one on one time with each student will help promote connections and provide time to assist them in any problems or questions they need to be answered. If my

students learn best in groups, group work can be incorporated for some questions or worksheets. If students were more successful alone, individual work will be incorporated. Reaching each learner is the sign of a successful classroom.

The involvement of a child's guardian is extremely important. To get the child's family involved, I can plan meetings with the parents at least once a semester to show the child's work and explain what we are doing in class to help them understand. Sometimes these meetings can take place during the school day, but I am aware that I may have to meet parents before and after school as well because many parents can't make it during the regular school hours. If the parent understands what the child is doing in class, they can be involved and help. Newsletters and constantly updating my website can also help involve parents and inform them about what their child is doing in the classroom. Once a year I can host a school day that allows parents to come to a class period and see the projects and work that their child does and to also see how the class functions. For parents who are unable to make it to the classroom, something could be sent home or uploaded to show any information they missed. These activities will allow for parents to have a chance to get involved with the work that their sixth-grader does daily.

Being a teacher and having the power to educate the future leaders of this world is extremely important. A teacher's attitude and respect for her students play a part in how effective her teaching is. Educated students become productive and important members of society. Although there are many ways to become educated and informed, school and teachers are the bases of it all.