

My Teaching Philosophy

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The teaching profession is an extremely diverse field and requires many qualities from individuals brave enough to become a teacher. The diversity and challenges of teaching is what continues to drive me to become a teacher. I have a passion for adolescents and want to see them succeed and have hope for their future. I hope to be a teacher that can meet the needs of a diverse classroom and be able to provide a successful foundation for each and every student. As a teacher, I aim to exemplify respect, keep learning student centered, and give each of my students a foundation to be a successful professional outside of the classroom. These are the three attributes that produce my philosophy of teaching.

I plan to become a secondary mathematics educator. I will illustrate respect in my classroom in a number of ways. Respect is something that seems to be dwindling away in today's world. I will model respect through my actions in the classroom. I will respect the students' points of view and treat them like young adults instead of children. This means I will hold them responsible for their actions and give positive or negative consequences when necessary. I hope to show them how to respect others. For example, whenever I encounter a coworker, parent, janitor, or whoever it may be, I will treat him or her with the utmost respect. I hope this will show my students how they should treat others. Furthermore, although I will respect their position and views, I will still make sure they realize where they sit in the chain of respect. By this, I want to make clear that they are not in charge and need to respect my rules and decisions. This will prepare them for the work place and the general way of life. I believe respect is a vital characteristic to every successful professional.

The next characteristic I believe is imperative to a successful educator is keeping learning student centered. I want to develop skills in my students such as, problem solving skills, collaborative group projects that develop social skills, and explain how applicable math is

outside of the classroom. As an educator, I will need to develop strong and healthy relationships so that I can personalize learning. This will engage students by finding mathematic topics and problems that they can relate to and get excited about. Along with these strong relationships, I hope to encourage group work and peer tutoring. I want them to develop social skills and learn how to work with a group of people. In addition, I aim to encourage individual learning and allowing students to explore what learning strategies work best for them, as they will need to know what strategies work for themselves to be able to become a great college student and professional in the workplace. Engaging students by having a healthy relationship and developing the skills mentioned previously are at the core of my teaching philosophy.

The final quality I will display is care for my students. I do not know where these young men and women have come from, what they have been through, or what they go home to. I hope to care for each of them and push them to be the best they can. I hope I can become a positive and stable role model in each of their lives and inspire them to become great. I want to instill hope and joy in their lives. I hope to be as a parent would be to their child, not trying to be their friend, but to guide them to become successful, even if it involves some tough love. I plan to accomplish this by giving each student opportunities to succeed which will boost their self-confidence. In addition, I want to promote courageousness and creativity. I want my students to be able to answer freely without being scared of getting something wrong. Failure is not defeat, rather, it is an opportunity to learn. I think this positive outlook is something that applies to both the mathematics classroom and life outside the classroom. The ability to positively affect my students' lives is one of the main influences that led to my decision to pursue the teaching profession.

All these qualities will be difficult to perfectly implement into each day of teaching; however, I hope to consistently be able to model respect, keep students at the center of learning, and be a caring and positive role model in my students' lives. These qualities will not only benefit the students in the future but will help them excel in math as well. By creating a safe and positive environment, my students will develop skills needed to become a great mathematician, as well as, professional skills that will lead to success outside of the classroom. All these characteristics can be found among three major learning theories already developed. These theories are called constructivism, humanism, and 21st century skills. These learning theories hold many of the same values as I have described in my philosophy. This is promising because these theories are data driven and have shown that they are effective in the classroom. I hope to have a lasting impact on my students, their families, and my fellow coworkers. I cannot wait to start making an impact in the educational world.