

My Teaching Philosophy

As a teacher, I believe I am in a position to positively impact the lives of my students in a multitude of ways. Being a Social Studies teacher I believe in character education and helping to mold students into outstanding citizens. I believe I can achieve this positive impact and help create these outstanding citizens by stressing several key points; those points include the following: asking my students to give their maximum effort, showing my students that I care for them as individuals, and by becoming an active member of the community. I hold many truths concerning education, but these three beliefs are at the core of my philosophy concerning education.

Having a student give his/her maximum effort is one of the things I emphasize the most to my students. I tell my students that everyday I am asking them for their best effort. Not all students may be capable of getting an A or a B, but every student is capable of giving his/her best effort. Even on days when learners don't feel well or their minds may be cluttered with topics other than academics, I simply ask that they do the best that they can do. Giving maximum effort is a life lesson that is important for all students to learn. Not every lesson or subject will come easy to every student, but by giving maximum effort, each student can be proud of his/her work.

Learning about students as people is, in my opinion, one effective and important way of earning the students' respect and motivating them to learn. In my teaching I have found that students always have more respect for me as a person and produce more in the classroom when they learn that I care about them as an individual person instead of just as a student number or face in the crowd. This focus on being a "people person" on the part of the teacher, also makes the student realize that the teacher cares about her/him and views her/his success in the classroom as being important. Relating to students' interests can be another way of getting through to the students. I have found that stopping in at Art Club to say hello to students or going to the basketball game can go a long way in improving the type of effort a student will give back to the teacher in the classroom.

I believe in becoming a part of the school's community. I have always wanted to be a teacher who is not only visible in the classroom, but also visible at after-school activities and an active member of the community. I feel in order to be a successful teacher I need to do more than contribute from 7:30-3:00 in my classroom Monday through Friday. I enjoy getting out in the local community and coaching or volunteering my time at other school activities. I am interested in making students into better members of their communities by encouraging them to be active citizens. Part of being a Social Studies teacher is teaching students how to be actively involved as citizens. It would be irresponsible to ask my students to be active in the community if I neglected to do so myself. I make a habit of regularly participating in community functions. By becoming active citizens, students can not only better themselves as individuals but help the community at-large and learn lifelong lessons along the way.

The traits which I have mentioned above are the values that are important to me as a teacher. I feel I can be effective in working with students by stressing these values. The three beliefs which I stress are an example of both who I am as a person and what I believe in as a teacher.