

Teaching Philosophy
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It is my belief that as human beings we are life long learners. My students will come to me possessing a certain set of skills. Each one of us has skills that are a base containing things we all ready know. My role as a teacher is to interpret what is known, model what is expected and form grade level appropriate skills for my students. Additionally, I will enrich or scaffold to propel my students farther, so they may continue to grow intellectually.

Most school curriculum is presented in a linguistic and/or logical mathematical way. Understanding this and combining how individuals learn with my own attitudes on life, my classroom will have a rich learning environment. I believe the real world around us needs to reach into my classroom. My students will see examples in nature and the world at large, then be encouraged to bring in their own examples to help make connections. I will encourage guest speakers, and technology to bring different perspectives to my room. My students they will be allowed opportunities to work both independently and in groups. I will also not limit my students to their seats for learning. I believe a student's whole body should be engaged for learning, and that elementary students, at all ages, need to be physically active. I know that some learners

respond best to music or spatial ways to fully see a subject. Singing songs, or creating some physical representations to learn specifics on a subject will be encouraged in my classroom. When students can discover a subject on multiple levels, they build deeper connections. I truly believe that the sign of ones intellect is not only being able to recall information, but being able to apply what one has learned in new ways. As a former parent of elementary students, I realize that families are a key to a student's successes in school. My goal will be to regularly update a class webpage or blog to keep families in the loop of our current studies. Additionally, I will always be available via phone, email or notes sent in with students. Family members and friends who have something to contribute to our curriculum will always be welcomed in my classroom. Concerns that parents/guardians have will also always be addressed, and I look forward to being a part of the team who helps my students be successful in school and in life.

Learning in my classroom will start as curiosities. I am a curious being who wonders about many things: always searching for answers and connections. I believe as future citizens and leaders, my students need to learn to do this as well. As a teacher, I wonder out loud. My goals are to find out what my students all ready know about a subject and what misconceptions or gaps they may have connecting their knowledge. I welcome experiencing the learning process

together by saying “*Let’s find out!*” Integrating subjects is important to me. The real world is not cut and dry or compartmentalized. Therefore, my classroom needs to represent what the real world looks like. I will integrate science and social studies into reading, writing and math, and vice versa. Together, my class and I will define class rules, and I will model expectations. I believe children of all ages need to be read too. By modeling what good reading sounds like I will be able to expect my students to follow my lead. Respect, independence, teamwork, fairness and curiousness will reside within my classroom.

When one observes in my classroom they will note that learning looks like a teacher asking questions of her students. As the students answer, the teacher will be listening...really listening. Sometimes my questions may be verbal, sometimes they may be written on paper, the board or on technology in our hands. In order to serve my students in the best ways I can, I need to find out what they know, define what they need to know before I teach, and in the end allow my students multiple ways to show their understanding. I believe in positive effects from conferencing. One-on-one work between a teacher and student allows the student to have ownership of their work. Working on rough drafts, accepting suggestions and being allowed to rework material after conferencing allows each student to strive towards independent goals. In my classroom, I will allow my students to become experts and to share their

knowledge. I believe a final step in the learning process needs to be celebrating what one has learned. Celebrations will highlight all finished work. Families will be encourage and welcomed to come into our room and celebrate our accomplishments. Celebrations may also look like electronic examples on our class website or blog, in class sharing or be highlighted on our class bulletin boards.

In order to provide a fun, safe and comfortable learning environment for my students I believe my first task as a teacher is to build our sense of classroom community. When communities come together and work towards common goals, they thrive. I believe the same outcomes happen in classroom communities. My classroom will be a community formed by the individuals who walk through my door. I will encourage my student's input in setting rules, stating expectations, abiding by the rules, in being accountable for their actions, and in celebrate individual and classroom successes. My students will see my examples of acceptance, and respect for all, and they will know that I expect the same of them. My students will also know that I welcome their ideas, and will encourage them to participate by sharing what they know. My classroom will connect what we need to learn with what is relevant in my student's daily lives. I look forward to continuing to learn what our younger generations enjoy in life and to share with them my experiences and knowledge.