

My Philosophy of Education

In the first year of my education degree, I heard a phrase that caught my attention. The phrase went something like this: We aren't teaching subjects, we are teaching students. Those eight words have become the framework for my educational philosophy. I believe that it is my responsibility to teach students the way they learn, not to make them learn the way I teach. I understand that every classroom is diverse and that each individual student will have his or her own specific needs. With this in mind, I believe that it is important to find out where my students are in their learning and then to approach the Learning Outcomes from where they are, working forward, together, from there.

I also believe that making connections with students is crucial in a classroom setting. I believe that by forming positive connections with students will help keep them engaged and interested in learning. Positive connections will help lead to positive attitudes toward the subjects I will teach. I believe that the attitude of a student strongly influences how engaged they are in a class, and I want to ensure that all of my students are fully engaged.

Technology has become an integral part of classroom learning and another part of my philosophy revolves around this point. I believe that technology is important for both teaching and learning, and that there are infinite possibilities as to what I can do in my classroom by using the technological tools I have at my disposal. A big concern in a high school setting is students missing class and then falling behind because they missed a concept that was taught. Part of my philosophy is that I believe creating a "flipped

classroom” will help me ensure that all my students will have the same opportunity to learn and to keep them caught up, even if they happen to miss a day here or there.

As a future educator with a secondary Math education background, I strongly believe that it is important to share my views of Mathematics with students. With this in mind, I created a “Math Creed” that explains my views on the subject. My creed consists of five statements that I feel summarize my beliefs of Mathematics:

- 1) I believe teachers need to understand how they view math.
- 2) I believe math is a vehicle to develop the mind.
- 3) I believe there is no "one way" of finding an answer.
- 4) I believe the process is more important than the answer.
- 5) I believe math is incredibly important to everyone, whether they know it or not.

The attitude students have toward Math, or any subject for that matter, greatly influences their motivation to engage in the class. I believe that sharing my creed with students will help show them that I am excited about teaching Math and that my enthusiasm will help encourage students to get excited about learning Math as well.