

My Educational Philosophy

The purpose of education is to teach students to be positive contributors to society so that they, as well as society, can progress and move forward. Education should build the basic skills necessary to achieve this goal through subjects such as: Math, Science, Technology, Language, Health and The Arts. Additionally, it is important to introduce the many different cultures and sub-cultures that make up the dynamics of our global society so as to give students enough information to come to logical conclusions about people, the arts, and even politics. Education should be a time of exploration that allows students to learn about their strengths and weaknesses, both mentally and socially. It should allow them to set goals, as well as allow them to strive towards reaching those goals based on their own personal findings.

I believe there are several ways that people learn and no one person is exactly the same as any other person. With that being stated, I think there are generally ways to break learning down into a few different categories. Students can be audio learners, visual learners, and kinesthetic learners. I honestly believe that the way students learn is to combine all three categories to achieve their full learning potential. As a science teacher I believe that it is critical that I do my best to accommodate learning styles so that I give students the best opportunity to learn an often very difficult subject. Additionally, I believe that learning should be experiential; we learn by doing. If we really expect students to master a subject then they must be truly immersed in it. Curriculum needs to be challenging, deep, fun, and authentic for true understanding. The final, major, factor in learning is the classroom setting. I believe that the classroom should be a place where everyone feels like they are safe and that they belong. Only in this setting can optimal learning take place.

I believe that it is important for everyone to analyze a problem or situation in a logical way. As a science teacher in our current educational system, I cannot always teach things that interest everyone. Instead, I can only explain the theories scientists have come up with so far, and how they reached those conclusions. I feel the best way to help students understand difficult concepts is to allow them to work out problems using a logical approach so that they can draw their own conclusions. By allowing them to analyze problems through inquiry, students will learn valuable skills that they can use to interact in a productive manner. In teaching those concepts, it is important for the teacher to be enthusiastic about the topics of study and to teach with energy and passion. The teacher must also put the students best interest before all else; in addition to a teacher they must be a counselor, a guide, and a mentor.

When all of the above ideas are combined, I come up with what I think students should be taught. They should be taught critical thinking, logic and empathy in order to analyze problems or situations and reach their own conclusions. It is vital that teachers incorporate new technologies into curriculum in order to keep students up to date with current trends in the workplace and colleges, as well as to keep them interested in the classroom. They should also learn about different cultures, the fine arts, and politics, in order to be well rounded. Finally, they should learn how to function as a valuable contributor to the global society by learning about their own strengths and weaknesses. This applies to both social and mental aptitudes, and can be achieved by experimenting in different classes and social situations. While this may seem like a tall task, students can accomplish some of these objectives just by being in the school setting. As far as specific subjects go, I think that all subjects are important. The key is integration into the real world through things like technology, place-based education, and community involvement.