

Philosophy of Education

My personal goal for my future classroom is to challenge students and watch them grow to their full potential. I believe students learn best when they are actively engaged, when they feel safe, and when they feel heard. According to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs theory in education, students progress through a set of sequential needs from physiological to self-actualization. As they move up through the levels, they feel more comfortable in their learning environment and have the confidence to push further. As a teacher I will help provide those basic physiological needs for my students that will result in cultivating positive relationships at school, and in turn my students will feel comfortable and able to learn. From my experience, I have seen when basic physiological needs are not being met and as a result, learning has been put in jeopardy and difficult behaviours have been challenging to manage. I have realized the importance of being a positive, supportive, and knowledgeable role model for all students, and especially those who may not have this person in their lives elsewhere.

I also believe that each and every students' learning style needs to be recognized and appreciated. These learning styles and multiple intelligences, according to Gardner's theory, suggests that there are a variety of ways to approach learning and that these intelligences rarely operate independently, and compliment each other as students learn new skills and solve problems. My classroom environment will be welcoming to all students, learning styles and intelligences. It will be a safe space for students to come and learn, and it will be a place where students feel appreciated. It is important that my students are represented in the classroom, either through pieces of work they have created, or through self-portraits displaying how they choose to represent themselves.

In my classroom, students will be learning through a variety of methods that will accommodate all learners. I will be using scaffolding strategies and differentiated instruction in my classroom so that all students are able to learn effectively and to the best of their ability. I want my students to be mindful of their actions and words, and recognize how they contribute to the classroom and school climate. My students will be open to new ideas, engaged in hands on experiences, and reflect on their learning. Kolb's Experiential Learning theory is a cycle that supports learning in 4 different areas that include: doing or having an experience, reflecting on that experience, interpreting and learning from the experience and trying out what has been learned. I plan on integrating this theory of education in my classroom, emphasizing the importance of reflecting on experiences and learning from them.

Some of the values that I embrace about education are that we need to embrace and drive change. We need to remain open-minded, find our strengths and learn from others, and do what we can to support the growth and success of students. My role in the classroom is to support student learning and foster creativity. I want my students to dream big, and I will do everything in my power to cultivate those ideas and move them forward in whatever pursuit they choose. I want my students to take responsibility for their own learning, and experience a variety of abstract concepts that can be applied to a range of scenarios.

I want my students to remember me as someone who was always encouraging. I want my students to know that I am rooting for them every step of the way, and that I only want to see them succeed. I want my students to feel supported and feel like they found their voice when looking back on the time that we spent together. I want to empower my students, so that they feel one step closer to reaching their goals and that they have the tools to keep moving forward. I want my students to remember that they were valued in my classroom.