

## Education Philosophy Reflection

I wrote my education philosophy paper two years ago during an introductory teaching course. I was amazed to see just how much I have grown as an educator and how much my philosophy has changed over the last two years. It was actually a great way to **reflect** about my thoughts about education before actually becoming a part of a real classroom. **Reflection** is a powerful tool and so **imperative to learning**.

The most extreme change I made to my philosophy paper was my idea of curriculum. Before becoming a part of the classroom and actually using the curriculum and **Common Core Standards** – I viewed them as requirements that overall made school less enjoyable for students. I think I used to have this grand idea that school should be “student-centered” and they would learn best if they were choosing the curriculum. I found myself laughing at this idea and now understand that **any curriculum can be made fun and exciting!** It is all a part of becoming **creative as a teacher** and finding ways to make it **relatable** to the students.

## Philosophy

The more time I spend in the classroom - my education philosophy changes. Perhaps, my philosophy will always be changing as I learn more and become a more experienced teacher.

Recently my views have changed on the issue of exactly what teaching is. To me teaching has become an art form. I view it as a craft rather than a job; A craft that gets better with time, practice and the desire to enhance your education. I think teaching goes far beyond the curriculum and is a place to give kids the tools to be motivated, caring, compassionate individuals. As teachers we are in a position where we can incorporate social justice and compassion in our classrooms – or we can ignore it and only teach the basics. I believe that giving students high self esteem and showing them how to treat their fellow classmates is much too important and is necessary to have a learning environment that is successful.

Over the past year, I have been concentrating on the many processes of teaching students to their particular learning style. This aspect of teaching is difficult and is going to require much practice. Teaching students to understand how they learn best and to be aware of things that help them be successful in the classroom is an important skill to give students.

When I imagine my future classroom I imagine an environment that makes every one of my students feel comfortable to be themselves. I want my students to feel good about who they are and how they learn. I want to form close bonds with my students and believe a classroom should be a community. Everyone should feel as though they have something to contribute and that they are a part of a team. This feeling of “togetherness” will not only help with management strategies, but allows my students to trust me and understand that what I am teaching is important and I care about their success.

Curriculum has an important place in the classroom. It guides teachers through almost every lesson and subject to be taught. However, curriculum can be enhanced and supplemented to better engage students and allow myself as a teacher to be creative in my lesson planning. It is my belief that any curriculum can be fun, engaging and taught with enthusiasm if a teacher is willing to make the effort.

Learning is a natural process and I believe children want to learn – everything! School is sometimes work, but it should also be well balanced with the wonderful experiences of learning. Grinding information into our students day after day can backfire in the end. Will they be able to recall information if they truly haven't applied it? Worksheets, tests, flashcards are all part of school, but should be used minimally. Authentic assessments, hands on learning activities and the opportunity to apply knowledge is a much better way to ensure learning.

As for assessing our student's growth, there are a number of ways to properly gauge learning. Portfolios, standardized tests and work samples should all be a part of displaying just how much students' learning is growing. Due to the fact that every student learns at a different pace and is at a different level, I believe it is only growth that should be measured each year. I would love to see students have portfolios that follow them from year to year full of projects, videos, letters from teachers, math papers, standardized growth tests and character reports. What a great indication of learning and growth that could be!

I truly believe in the public education system and have first handedly seen the wonderful people that make it great. I have worked with some amazing teachers, principals, support staff and students. I think our children deserve the best and not just someone to hand them a worksheet and give them a test. I am excited to become a teacher and know that my future career

will be much more than just a teacher – within the classroom I will be a role model, counselor, performer, salesman, friend and an educator for our future.

