

Statement of Teaching Beliefs

“We are not preparing students for the real world; we are preparing them to change the world.”
~ John Bird

I believe great teaching is one of the most involved, difficult, complex, and rewarding professions on earth. I strive to be a great teacher. Values and beliefs that emanate from me include passion, respect, flexibility, and lifelong learning. I believe these ideals help me live a happy and healthy life. I want all the children I meet to learn and understand how they too can live a happy and healthy life and I think it starts by being passionate about whatever you do.

I am passionate about my life, my ideals, my profession and ultimately about helping students. I will strive to build relationships with my students so my interactions with them are genuine and not repetitive. Being passionate about what I do will start to help me earn the respect of my students, their parents, and my colleagues. My opinion is that respect is earned and not merely given.

I will earn the respect of my students by treating them with respect, providing them with an authentic learning community, and by being a positive influence with high expectations, compassion, empathy, and understanding. Setting high expectations for my students ensures that they have high expectations for themselves. Every student is capable of success and I want them to realize that. I have structured my courses to provide my students with different avenues for evaluation (tests, interviews, projects, inquiry assignments, etc.). Teaching and learning styles are never black and white, there needs to be shades of grey. Building positive relationships will be the key to authentic teaching, learning and evaluation.

The principles of learning state that students learn at different rates and in different ways, students have to be actively engaged in their learning, and learning is both a collaborative and individual process. This statement exemplifies that there is no cookie cutter approach to this

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profession. As a professional teacher I need to be prepared to explain, question, and assess in a number of ways. Formative assessment tools (exit-slips, peer evaluation and self-check exercises) allow me to make alterations where necessary. Being prepared is important but being prepared to adapt is paramount. I will create flexible lesson plans and schedule days for extending ideas or reviewing difficult concepts. I will come to class prepared and organized, energized and available. I expect my students to be respectful, prepared, organized, energized to learn, and available for collaboration with their peers.

Lifelong learning is what will keep me relevant in this profession. This job will never be mastered. I will make lessons engaging by incorporating new ideas with current technology and trends. Teaching is a profession where I have to evolve with the times. I will try new strategies, flip the classroom, use assessment other than tests, and encourage exploratory learning. I will make mistakes and I will learn from them. My first step will be in admitting my mistakes. Without accurate self-reflection, change and growth will never occur. I will try to immediately reflect on how a lesson went. What worked? What can I change to make the lesson better? By answering these questions I can adapt my lessons to benefit myself and my students.

Teaching is a noble profession if it is done right. I want to do it right. I want my students to be passionate about their life, respect themselves and others, and understand that things don't always go according to plan. Learning doesn't stop when students leave school. We learn something new every day. I want them to believe in themselves and leave school more curious than when they arrived. Living a happy and healthy life is essential and I want to be the reason that the children I meet live that way. I want to be the driving force behind their successes, and the inspiration picking them up after a failure. I want to be a great teacher.