

Antoinette Huseinovic
My Teaching Philosophy

My general teaching philosophy is based on years of experience, observation and reflection. I believe that although education is meant to prepare students for practical, everyday life, it is not meant to serve as specific career training. A student should be able to use prior knowledge to think critically and build on that knowledge for continued learning. To educate a student is to provide a strong foundation for all future learning.

I believe that all students are diverse learners and therefore learn through a variety of strategies including direct instruction, cooperative group learning, practice and repetition, exploration, inquiry and self-study. My role as a teacher is to promote positive learning and help students to gain confidence by creating a classroom atmosphere that is comfortable, open and lively. This is done by encouraging participation, embracing relevant questions and comments, and emphasizing the value of making mistakes as a part of the learning process. I want my classroom to be a place where students feel safe to express themselves and ask questions without fear of judgement. It is important that I am organized, well prepared and observant of students' needs. I work hard to align the curriculum with standards, relevant instruction, classwork and homework, and accurate assessments that include traditional tests, projects, and performance tasks and checks.

Specifically as a math teacher I am challenged to make math interesting, understandable, enjoyable and less intimidating. Mathematics education is not only memorizing and practicing but also using newly learned skills to reason and think critically to solve problems. I make it a point to give my students the freedom to play around with new ideas and apply them to a variety of mathematical situations, often allowing their curiosity to drive a portion of the lesson. As a middle school teacher, I cannot always assume that all students come to me at the same level of conceptual understanding and application ability, so I work to enhance a firm foundation in basics and to provide students with an understanding of the language of math, as well as a solid background for all future math courses.

I feel that it is important that I motivate students and guide them to persevere

while integrating strong Catholic values. I am called to serve as a good role model by demonstrating moral character and allowing my faith to motivate all my actions and interactions. My spiritual beliefs allow me to teach with an emphasis on love and respect for each child. I call on my faith to help me teach with enthusiasm, clarity, patience and a willingness to help, while I continue to learn from my students.