

My Educational Philosophy

Teaching twenty-nine years at St. Anastasia, I have witnessed many theories for best practice in teaching. The core of my philosophy, although simple, has not changed.

I believe every student is a child of God and is entitled to the best learning experience regardless of sex, race, or religious experience.

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As society changes, I too must evolve. I know as a teacher, my philosophy must adjust and expand to keep up with societal demands. My students need to see me as an active learner, one who does not have all the answers and continues to be a seeker of new knowledge; one who may not know how to do something, but seeks to master new skills. I believe by modeling this in my class, my students will see that we are all lifetime learners. Although I think traditionally, I see my role as model and guider in this new world of education instead of instructor

Teaching young minds is a huge responsibility. Although it offers constant challenges, the moment you as a teacher see your students connecting to a new concept and making it their own, you are rewarded and you look forward to the next "ah ha" moment. As a teacher, I acknowledge that all students learn in different styles and therefore, must offer frequent opportunities to master concepts and skills while introducing new challenges. I want every student to leave my class on a daily basis knowing they can succeed.

In the classroom, I believe there must be a mutual respect. It is earned not just demanded. Where there is respect there is an openness to new thoughts and possibilities. I believe there must be a positive environment in order for learning to take place. I believe in challenging the students; they are all capable of learning and growth. Students must be encouraged to be active learners.

As technological tools become a part of our daily lives, I feel my role is to empower my students to make the tools their own. I believe they need to be empowered to use them as I am demonstrating, but then fly with it, embrace it making it their own. Doing so, I touch each and every future.

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