

Philosophy of Education  
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I believe that education is a distinctly unique experience for each individual learner, young or not so young, whether in a classroom, behind a computer screen or on the job. The learning goals, styles of learning and motivations to learn are as diverse as the students we teach.

Educators have a great responsibility to identify individual student needs and differentiate instruction to ensure equitable learning experiences for all students.

Effective and mutually respectful communication is a first step in individualizing each student's educational experience. Knowing a student's personal learning goals, educational and cultural background and specific strengths and weaknesses guides the teacher in developing authentic lessons that meet both the learning objectives of the course and the students' needs for meaningful learning. An open, warm rapport with students encourages free exchange of ideas and provides a safe environment for risk taking related to creative thinking and problem solving. Students bring their own life experiences, distinct perspectives and personal knowledge to every learning environment. This creates a reciprocal relationship between students and teachers through which lifelong learning is experienced.

When teachers are passionate about their profession and the subject areas they teach, their enthusiasm for teaching and learning is inspirational to both their students and fellow educators. Collaboration with other educators is essential to the professional development of the teacher and the excellence with which the teaching process is executed. As with students, educators bring to their profession their diverse cultural and educational backgrounds and unique life experiences. Through this sharing and the dedication to create the best learning experiences built upon research and evidenced-based best practices, students will be motivated by the tangible signs of their teachers' efforts to meet their needs and ensure positive learning outcomes.

I love learning and I believe it is important to be aware of current and future research impacting the profession of teaching and to be part of that research. Our profession must be filled with teachers committed to continuous learning and willing to embrace change in order to adequately meet our students' learning needs and provide equitable, multicultural, quality educational experiences.

As a Catholic educator, I value the opportunity to share my faith with my students and their families. As I continually grow in my own spirituality, I have more to share. Although educating

my students is very important, helping them get to heaven is my first priority. Through prayer, faith and spiritual direction, I strive to infuse academic subjects with Catholic beliefs, scriptural connections and a sense of what God's mission is for each one of my students. Through identifying their gifts and talents and prayerfully considering their specific mission, I hope to assist them in building a foundation in faith that will keep them on the path of God's will.