

## Personal Philosophy of Education

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“All students can learn and succeed, but not on the same day in the same way.” ~William G. Spady

In any classroom, you will find a mixture of unique individuals with unique learning needs and preferences. Just like snowflakes, no two children are exactly alike! William Spady sums up my personal philosophy of education in the above quote. As children grow and change each day, we, as educators, must grow and change with them in order for learning to take place. We must be compassionate and flexible when shaping and molding our future leaders.

Faith and academics go hand in hand in the development of the whole child. As an educator in a catholic school, it is my responsibility to point all of my students in the direction of Christ. In my daily interactions and in my lifestyle, I must demonstrate what I am trying to teach to my students...faith, love, compassion for others, honesty and a healthy fear of God. All students whom I encounter should experience God's presence through my actions and responses. In choosing to become a catholic educator, I have made the commitment to myself and to my students to be the best academic, personal, spiritual and ethical role model I can be.

Mutual respect between student and teacher is of utmost importance in the classroom. If students trust and respect you, they will perform. If they don't trust and respect you, they will shut down and make learning more difficult. I believe it is very important to create a trusting and honest relationship with every student as he or she walks through my classroom door. There will be days when students will not perform to their fullest potential and as the leader in my classroom, I must be positive and encouraging, reminding them that they can always find a way to succeed.

Lastly, Learning must begin with motivation and inspiration! It is my role, as an educator, to inspire my students to *want* to learn. Attitude is everything! Discussions, projects, debates and challenges must be introduced with enthusiasm and passion. Giving students the opportunity to make choices and the responsibility to make good decisions will inspire them to become good leaders and good decision makers. Those important skills, combined with a true love for God, will enable them to become productive and successful in life.