Philosophy of Education

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It is my belief that, through education, a student will receive the vital skills and tools that are necessary to build a life that is successful and prosperous. Students should be encouraged to explore problem-solving aptitudes they will need outside of the classroom and in the adult world. I believe that, as teachers, we must provide a safe, open, and supportive environment, so that our students can study various disciplines and develop relationships with others. Education is one of the most important aspects of growth and development, providing children with tools and skills to help them function in our society and successfully move forward in our ever-growing community.

My decision to become an art educator is due to my desire to help others, especially children, and have an impact on their life. At first, I was thinking of becoming an art therapist in order help those who suffer from mental illness and cannot function normally. However, I felt that teaching would be a better avenue for me to help individuals who need an extra push in the right direction. Teaching, in my opinion, is an honorable and rewarding profession in which we can impact others. As I have worked on pursuing my dream as an educator, I have had many people inspire me to accomplish my goals, including my family and my professors. I am becoming a fourth-generation teacher in my family, and have grown up in an environment in which education was a top priority to succeed in life.

As a student at Converse College, my Special Education professor, Margaret Park, has shown me a new perspective when it comes to teaching students, especially those who are suffering from a disability or illness. She taught me the finer points of creating meaningful, relevant, and effective lessons. It was under her guidance that I learned to remain patient, open to change, and to communicate successfully with both parents and students. I hope to have a positive relationship with my students. She provided support and encouragement, as well as helpful feedback, so that I could learn and grow in my career as an educator.

Student success is the primary focus of education. Kofi Annan (Top 10 Educational Quotes, 2001) said, “Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.” Once I start teaching, my teaching style will be composed of hands-on learning, as well as other techniques that will help students succeed in my classroom. I believe in hands-on learning because students can retain the material better if they able to use their senses. It's essential to the learning processes of children and adults. By engaging students in their lessons and figuring out how students learns best, I believe they will achieve academic success and build confidence in themselves to continue their education. Learning occurs when students are engaged in the learning process, making a connection with the material, and applying it to previous experiences as well as future ones. Students will then become more interested in learning, making connections, and applying their knowledge outside of the classroom.

I also believe that to succeed, students may need to work in small groups or one-on-one teaching with me, especially if they do not understand something from the material we went over. I feel that I will learn along with my students, as they teach me new things that I never knew in how to approach certain situations. My goal as a teacher is to engage in my students’ passions and create a learning environment that gets them excited to learn new material every day. Learner-oriented teaching can also promote learning that is purposeful and enduring to my students. Anthony J. D’Angelo (Top 10 Educational Quotes, 2001) states, “Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.” It is my responsibility to know who my students are and what kind of materials and experiences they can bring to the classroom.

Addressing the different learning styles and needs of students is significant in order to become a successful educator. It is very important to determine each child’s learning style and to help that child increase his academic progress through appropriate assessments. This will bring out students’ strongest and weakest points in their academic development in school. I believe that teaching creates enthusiasm and encourages students to be engaged in the learning process. Plato (Goodreads, 2007) stated, “Do not train a child to learn by force or harshness, but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each.” The students’ well-being is also significant in their academic development. My goal is to have a strong and positive relationship with my students by being supportive of them and encouraging them to do their very best. I want to connect with my students by getting to know them. That is the best way to ensure that each one can succeed.

I want to be able to build meaningful relationships with my students and have the determination to go the extra mile as an educator. I want my students to know that I understand them and accept them as they are, not by what others think of them. I plan on working hard and spending as much time as necessary to make my students successful academically, mentally, and emotionally. Jim Henson (Goodreads, 2007) said, “Kids don’t remember what you try to teach them. They remember what you are.” I believe students should feel that they matter, and that their opinions and ideas are important and are essential to me as their teacher. Together with their teacher, their parents, and the school community, students can create a more productive and collaborative learning environment. Teachers who show curiosity and passion for teaching, motivate their students to learn and succeed academically.

In conclusion, my goal as an art teacher is to promote a passion for learning within my students while providing them with a safe learning environment. I hope to provide the skills and tools necessary for success and bring out the strengths in each student, giving them the confidence to pursue their dreams and make them a reality. Students will remember those who helped them through their academic career and cared about their well - being. I want to provide students with best education that meets the needs of each student. I hope to create a learning environment in which students are safe and secure. I want to leave a legacy that both teachers and students will remember; that I was a sincere individual with a passion for teaching others, who always came in early or stayed late to help those who struggle.

Work Cited

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