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### Teaching Credo

Teachers are incredible individuals. They dedicate their time to helping students achieve excellence. As an educator I want to inspire children, smoothing out the rough edges. I want to give them a thirst for knowledge; the same thirst was that was given to me by my teachers. I want to have a student-centered class, one in which students have choices and can experience learning through discovery, and most importantly I want to give my students the skills they need to succeed not only in the classroom but in life.

I was inspired to teach by my first grade teacher, Mrs. Jones. She was a marvelous woman with lots of passion for what she did. She came to class everyday with a smile on her face eager to teach. She was the epitome of what every teacher should be. She showed enthusiasm in her work, and you knew she was doing what she loved. She created lesson plans that were fun and exciting and made it a point for all her students to be involved in the classroom; as I grow and become a teacher I want to use similar philosophies.

In class I have learned about three educational theories. Each one displays unique qualities that will be essential in teaching my own students. The first is perennialism; this theory of education emphasizes classical knowledge. It focuses on the traditional views of education. The teacher is expected to have a wide body of knowledge and present authority in the classroom. Students may question ideas but they must never challenge their teacher's authority. I like this theory in that the teacher has control over the classroom and they have a wide body of knowledge. I feel that it is very important for a

teacher to be well educated on their subject matter. However, I do not like how perennialism's main focus is on the classical education.

The second theory is essentialism. Essentialism, like perennialism, focuses on the traditional views of education; however, essentialism is less wedded into the classics. It contains more modern literature and skills of computer science and word processing, as well as, arithmetic. They test potential teachers to assure that they are knowledgeable in their subject matter. Teachers must also continue their education at different intervals to stay current on their subject. I think that a teacher continuing their education is a wonderful idea. I feel that learning is a life long process and that in order to be an effective teacher it is essential that the teacher continue her education by attending professional development workshops, in-services, and other educational classes.

Lastly, there is progressivism, which focuses on a world of change. John Dewey stated, "Students are not receptacles or buckets, they are organisms. They need to be active; they learn best by doing." As society advances, teachers and students are challenged to pertain those advances and engage in activities that enforce those new technological ideas. Teachers and students also have an emotional connection; the teacher is viewed as more of a friendly figure rather than authoritative. I think it is great how progressivism focuses on change because we live in a forever changing world. I also love the idea of students learning by doing. I think that in order for students to retain information they must not only hear it but also discover it. As a future teacher I want to create lessons that are student oriented allowing them to discover the material. I will then jump in when appropriate and guide the students' learning.

I feel that in order to be an effective teacher it is essential to take bits and pieces from each of these theories. I want to be a friend to my students, but yet maintain authority. I am not going to be afraid of change; I will look at new technological advances with optimism and enthusiasm. I feel that it is imperative to study the classics, but also be familiar with modern literature. Reading, writing, and mathematics are key components of a good education; however, I also want to focus on subjects such as social studies and science. I want to be a well-educated teacher with a surplus of knowledge ready and willing to educate my pupils. I want to do hands on activities as well as traditional learning. I want to make learning fun; so that my students are as eager to learn as I am to teach them. I want to take pieces of these theories and change lives; I want to educate a new generation. Learning should be fun and that is how I intend to make it in my classroom.