My Professional Teaching Credo:

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Introduction To Teaching 111

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Abstract

Ever since I was a child, I have known what I wanted to be when I grew up; I want to be a teacher. With many years of schooling, my desire to teach has become stronger. It is now time for me to start becoming a teacher and with that comes developing my teaching credo. My main goal as a teacher is to not only develop my students as intellectuals but also as people. I want to give my students the knowledge and skills to do well in the classroom and, more importantly, in life. My classroom is going to be an enjoyable learning environment, so that my students will want to come to class and learn. I will not only teach the curriculum to my students, but I will also teach essential skills such as discipline, hard work, and behavior. Throughout my life, I have been very successful in the classroom as a student, and I plan on having the same success as a teacher.
What do you want to be when you grow up? This question has been asked for generations and will continue to be asked for future generations. When asked this question, many children respond by saying, “I want to be a policeman, a firefighter, or a professional athlete.” Chances are that these answers will change over time as children mature and find out what they really want their professional careers to be. When asked this question as a child, I responded by saying, “I want to be a teacher.” As the years have gone by and I have matured into an adult, my answer has never changed. As a child, I wanted to be a teacher because my father was a teacher, and I wanted to be just like him. Since that time, my desire to become a teacher has strengthened, and the reasons for me wanting to become a teacher have grown. I used to think teaching was just teaching your specific subject to students, but it is much more than that. Teachers do not only teach content to their students; they must also teach discipline, behavior, and attitude. There are many different ways of teaching content and life skills to students. Since all teachers are different from one another, they must establish their own teaching style. As a teacher, I want to teach my students how to become successful scholars and also successful people, while producing an enjoyable learning environment.

Teaching is one of the most important and rewarding professions that a person can be a part of, which is why I want to be a teacher. I have always heard that it is up to future generations to make this world a better place. Well, I believe that teachers are the people who are mainly responsible for teaching these future generations. People will say that parents are the ones with this responsibility, but actually children spend just as much time with their teachers as they do with their parents. In the job description of being a teacher, it basically states that a teacher is to teach his or her specific content area to his or her students. Although, in reality, teachers not
only teach their specific subject, as they also teach valuable life skills. My goal in life has always been to become a match teacher. I used to want to teach math because of my love for the subject itself; now, I want to become a teacher because of my desire to have a positive impact on the lives of students not only in the classroom, but also in life. I want to be a great role model for my students. With so much responsibility, teaching can be very challenging, but at the same it can also be very rewarding. Teachers are not rewarded with high salaries; their rewards come from the joys that their students give them. There is not another profession that allows a person to watch students and adolescents grow both as intellectuals and also people. As a teacher, it is a great feeling to experience when a teacher knows he or she has tremendously impacted a student not only throughout the course of a year, but also throughout his or her life. In order to experience the joys of teaching; it is not necessary for teachers to be blessed with talented and abnormally gifted students. It is the teacher’s job to try and get the most out of their students, and the students who struggle the most are usually the ones who give teachers the biggest rewards. I know that I will face many challenges as a teacher, but I am willing to do whatever it takes to get the most out of my students. I want to positively impact the lives of students both in and out of the classroom. I am sure there will be disappointments along the way, but the joys from teaching will always outweigh the disappointments.

My focus as a teacher is to help students learn, while making the classroom an enjoyable learning environment at the same time. In life, people learn something new each day. Learning is such an important part of life because without it people will never get anywhere. Without learning, people would go through life with no more knowledge than an infant. Learning can be taught through a variety of ways such as lecturing, small group activities, and technology; different methods help students as long as they are used correctly. I plan on bringing many
different teaching methods into the classroom. If I would use only one method, then my students would lose interest because the classroom would become boring. In order for students to learn, the classroom must be an enjoyable learning environment. Learners learn best when they are interested in what is being taught. It is a teacher’s job to make the content and also the classroom interesting. The best way for a teacher to make the classroom interesting is by using enthusiasm. Even if the content being taught is boring, the students will still be interested as long as the teacher makes it exciting. The legendary pro football coach Vince Lombardi once said, “If you aren’t fired with enthusiasm, you’ll be fired with enthusiasm” (“Quotes by Vince Lombardi,” n.d.). This applies to teaching, because if the teacher does not have enthusiasm for their subject, then the students will not either and more importantly, they will not be learning. This will eventually lead to the teacher getting fired. My goal is to bring enthusiasm into the classroom, and hopefully, it will spread to the students. Students also learn best when working with each other and hands on activities. For the most part, students enjoy working with each other because it allows them to share their ideas and feel as if they are the teacher. I will teach mainly from the textbook, but I will also use hands-on activities to help students learn the content. Textbooks give valuable information, but they do not allow students to be independent thinkers. Hands on activities allow the students to be the teachers, and students get a firsthand look at what is being taught. These activities are also more enjoyable than just reading a textbook. I am going to do my best to make learning exciting, so that the students will want to come to class and learn.

As students go through the learning process, they acquire knowledge along the way. Webster’s dictionary defines knowledge as “what one knows” (The Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2004, p. 402). How successful a student is depends on how knowledgeable he or she is. Knowledge can be evaluated through a variety of ways, but the most common way teachers
use is through tests. I feel that tests are a great way of evaluating knowledge, but they tend to make students feel nervous, rather than confident. Each state has a Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE), so the best way to prepare students for this exam is by testing them. Knowledge defines how successful a student is, and I am going to give my students the knowledge to do well in the classroom.

As a teacher, my educational philosophy is essentialism. In this philosophy, “the emphasis is on intellectual and moral standards that should be transmitted by the schools” (Parkay & Hardcastle Stanford, 2007, p. 118). I believe that the main objective for a teacher is to help their students grow as intellectuals, while at the same time teaching them good morals and ethics. Parents should be responsible for teaching morals, but not all parents have good morals themselves; therefore, it is the teacher’s job to teach morals. Essentialists believe that the curriculum should be based on essential knowledge and skills. I feel the same way, students should be taught curriculum that will give them the knowledge and skills to succeed later on in life. I also agree with the essentialist view that students should be taught discipline, hard work, and respect to authority. These are all skills that successful people use every day. The reason that I agree with the philosophy of essentialism is because it prepares students to do well in life. My goal as a teacher is to help students succeed later on in life, not only as people, but as parents, employees, and citizens.

My education philosophy has been influenced by the psychological orientation of behaviorism. “Behaviorism is based on the principle that desirable human behavior can be the product of design rather than accident” (Parkay & Hardcastle Stanford, 2007, p. 90). This means that behavior is shaped by forces in our environment. Everyone has the freedom to make their own decisions, but behavior is something that is instilled. Behavior is taught to everyone at a
young age and continues to be taught throughout a student’s educations. When behavior is taught at a young age, it becomes a habit throughout their life. Habits are very difficult to change, which is why behavior can be controlled. My goal is to shape students’ behavior, while instilling essential knowledge and skills into the minds of the students along the way. Good behavior will produce better learners and also better thinkers.

As a teacher, my goal is not only to help students succeed in the classroom, but more importantly later on in life. I plan on making the classroom an enjoyable learning environment; a place where students want to come and learn. With an essentialist philosophy, I am going to stress the importance of intelligence and also good morals to my students. As a teacher, I will also do my best to shape the behavior of my students. Over the years, I have been fortunate enough to have great teachers who have given me the knowledge and essential skills to do well in life, and hopefully I will be able to do the same for my students.
References


http://www.vincelombardi.com/about/quotes2.htm