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My Professional Teaching Credo

Professor Eastman

Intro to Teaching 111
Abstract

Throughout my many years of schooling, I have experienced both great teachers that made me a better person, and teachers that lent nothing to my intellectual or personal development. Encountering both types, I have learned what type of teacher I want to be. I believe that children and young adults need variety in their activities and lessons in order to grow as people. I grew up with 3 younger sisters. I was very close to all of them and spending countless hours playing with, helping, watching and listening to them, I realized that I love children. Every person that I have interacted with from a young age has influenced my decision to want to help children. Teachers are responsible for a great variety of tasks, including helping children grow in ways that will enable them to impact society positively in years to come. I look forward to taking on this responsibility.
Anatole France once said, “the whole art of teaching is only the art of awakening the natural curiosity of young minds”. Curiosity is a term that refers to the subconscious characteristic of all people to learn more about the world around them. Throughout my life, curiosity in my own life has played a huge role in my successes. I started playing soccer because I was curious about the game. I graduated salutatorian of my high school class because I had a deep interest in my classes and extracurricular activities. I have come to understand the importance of curiosity in learning and succeeding, which leads me to look forward to my career in teaching. My goal as a teacher is to ensure that the life of every one of my students is bettered and impacted in a positive way by their time in my classroom.

Teachers enter the profession for a variety of reasons: some based on the actual career itself, others based on the children, and others based on family or friend influence. I have always had a passionate desire to work with children and young people. This is my main motivation for wanting to teach. Essentially, my family helped me make my career decision. In high school, I determined that I should become a pediatrician, so that I could make a great income and be able to work with children. After coming to Manchester, I realized that I craved a greater one on one interaction with the children for a more prolonged period of time. I wanted an opportunity to actually impact their lives. So, I turned my focus to teaching, and have realized how great my decision was more and more each day.

My first grade teacher, Mrs. Quick, influenced my decision to desire teaching young elementary students. She is an amazing person, as well as an excellent teacher. She taught me, indirectly, to love school. Her enthusiasm for her classroom helped me to
enjoy learning. Her passion for teaching was incredible. I want to exhibit similar qualities in my teaching. Her examples of passion and genuine concern for her young students influenced me greatly and I will use them in my classroom.

In my career as an elementary teacher, I will be accountable for a number of impressionable students that will most likely look up to me. An old Chinese adage said, “teachers open the door, but you must enter it yourself”. I know that my actions and attitudes will greatly influence their behaviors and development. I plan to open that proverbial door for my students by leading by example, and giving them the opportunity to succeed and walk through it. Teachers serve not only as deliverers of knowledge, but also as role models and mentors to their students. The teaching-learning process involves both academic endeavors and personal development, for both the educator and the student. Young children are very observant of detail, and will likely pay close attention to their teacher’s ways. I believe that teaching encompasses a large variety of factors, not limited to the passing on of information. Learners in my classroom will discover new facts and concepts. These young people will also find out about life and growing up. I feel that students in my classroom, aged around 6 or 7, will be very excited about learning, and I look forward to encouraging their enthusiasm and fostering a knowledge in them at this young age. I will show my students how to become independent in completing personal tasks, but also how to begin working together with their peers to accomplish assignments.

Many people look to teachers as professionals full of various types of knowledge, and expect their children’s educator to be very intelligent and worldly. I feel that teachers should be successful individuals who have a lot to offer young children, and
self-knowledge is the first step in understanding how to sympathize and better your students. Possibly the most important in our schools, the knowledge of your students is crucial. Today’s school systems place a high importance on standardized testing that is assumed to measure the knowledge that students have received throughout the school year. I personally believe that simply appraising students based on written answers over a lifeless passage is a very inaccurate way to judge the knowledge our students are being taught, especially in younger learners. Tests and grades are in fact necessary, but I believe that it is very crucial for teachers to allow students to show what they have learned in various ways through activities and projects. I plan to implement a variety of lessons to keep student interest and still increase knowledge base and child development. I feel that stiff lesson plans actually hinder the learning process, and it is an important quality for educators to be able to improvise when necessary for the best interest of the classroom.

Many teachers base their teaching style and ideals on a division of philosophy. The main segment of teaching philosophy that concerns me the most is axiology. This branch focuses on the balance of book knowledge that students receive and their life quality enhancement and personal development. Most of my beliefs fit in with the existentialism orientation, originally developed by Jean-Paul Sartre. Quoted in our text, he states, “every individual first exists and then he or she must decide what the existence is to mean”. I believe that all students need more than simple facts to really learn in a classroom. A creativity-based approach to teaching, existentialism states that human culture is very important in the well-rounded education of an individual. I can identify with this philosophy because it has a “me” concentration. It focuses on the development
of individuals through creativity and human experiences, which I believe in very strongly. I plan to integrate an array of activities in order to give students several different ways to understand material or a concept, which will also increase my students life experiences and understanding.

Teaching philosophies have a strong foundation in psychological ideas and thought. There are three main orientations that help explain how children learn, and I can identify most closely with the humanistic psychology. This orientation emphasizes individual decision making, social and cultural awareness, responsibility, and choice. I plan to approach teaching young children with these ideals in mind. I believe that growing children in many ways, including as people and in knowledge of the material I am presenting.

As I think into the future and into my career in teaching first or second graders, I can’t help but become excited for the impact I will make in the young lives. Students in my class will not only learn basic skills in math, reading, and writing, but they will also learn how to interact with their peers and become more aware of society and gain behavioral competence. My goal is for my students to learn based on my example. I hope to become a friend to my students, as well as their educator.