

My Professional Teaching Credo:

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Abstract

I believe everyone starts out on the winding roads of life in search of who they are and what their purpose is. Throughout my life, I have been blessed to have wonderful help and guidance from my family, friends, and teachers. Without these wonderful people in my life, the road to finding out who I am and what my purpose is would have been long and hard. My family and friends have helped send me down the paths of life in search of who I am supposed to become. It was the wonderful teachers of my past that influenced the way I will teach and that have finalized my decision to become a teacher myself. I believe that teachers hold a very important task of helping young children, and youth, grow and develop their minds and imaginations. As a teacher, one of my goals is to be as prepared as possible before entering the classroom. Most importantly, I have set a goal to make a difference in each one of my students' lives, regardless of the hard work and obstacles I must overcome.

Every person is born into a world of unknown endings where only dreams can send them on their way to finding out who they are and what their purpose is. With the help of my family, friends, and teachers, I have found my purpose in life. My purpose in life is to help guide youth as they travel down their own individual journeys. It is my duty to prepare the minds of youth to learn, expand, and reach for whatever lies ahead of them. My family and friends never let me give up on my dreams; they continue to encourage me regardless of the obstacles I stumble upon. I have also had several teachers that have influenced me to follow my dream of making a difference in the lives of others. As a teacher, I will be able to make a difference in the lives of my students. In order to do this I believe it is extremely important to be prepared for whatever obstacles lie ahead. Before entering the classroom, I will try to consider all the possible obstacles that I, as a teacher, may encounter. Regardless of all these obstacles, my goal is to work hard and make a difference in each one of my students' lives.

I was a senior in high school when I realized I wanted to become a teacher. Throughout elementary and middle school, I was always a follower, shy and passive. It was not until high school that I realized how much of a difference I could make in the lives of others. I started to realize I was not going to get anywhere in life if I continued to follow the paths of everyone else. I started standing up for what I believed in, and others soon started to follow my path. My grandmother is one of the biggest reasons I have chosen to become a teacher. It was my grandmother's dream to become a teacher; unfortunately, she never had the opportunity to pursue an education after high school. My grandmother has always pushed me to be the best that I can be, and she has convinced me that I am capable of anything. Over the years, my grandmother's love of helping others

has become my dream as well.

As a teacher, I will be the person responsible for the future of my students. It is my duty to provide a safe and educational atmosphere for the young minds to grow and expand. As a teacher, one will have his own educational philosophy. I have two very high educational philosophic orientations. I fall into the categories of progressivism and existentialism. According to Forrest Parkay and Beverly Stanford's textbook, Becoming A Teacher, "progressivism focuses on the child rather than the subject matter" (118). Because I fall into the category of progressivism, I will help my students develop personal and social values. I also belong to the category called existentialism. Existentialism is the belief that emphasizes that each student has his or her own choices. "Existentialism emphasizes individual choice over the importance of rational theories" (118). As a teacher, I believe everyone is an individual and should be allowed to make their own decisions. I will be able to use my educational philosophy throughout my career as a teacher.

There are many questions teachers must ask themselves before they begin teaching in a classroom. Before entering the classroom, I believe one should ask himself what being a teacher means to him. I also find it important that one considers what techniques or methods will work effectively with the students he will be teaching. There are many different cultures, races, and religions that will enhance the classroom, yet will also cause barriers. One must be prepared to work around these barriers and have a plan on how to teach effectively. There are many other questions and obstacles that come along with being a teacher. All of these questions and many more need to be dealt with before entering the classroom.

Like many other first-time teachers, I want to be as prepared as possible for the things I will face throughout my first years of teaching. The first thing I must ask myself is: "What it means to be a teacher?" To me, being a teacher is someone that is much more than a leader; a teacher is someone who guides and looks after children while providing knowledge to help their minds expand and grow. Teachers should provide guidance by not only leading the children down the paths of math, history and science, but by also teaching essential life lessons to help them grow in all areas. One should decide their own values and morals, however, it is the duty of teachers to send students in positive directions. When I become a teacher at the end of my four years of college, I want to be able to provide valuable lessons to my students.

My four years of education at Manchester College will serve as a wonderful foundation to my teaching abilities; however, along with my education I must have determination, motivation, and the drive to actually make a difference in the lives of my students. Being a role model as well as a leader are two very important aspects of being a teacher. A teacher should be someone you can count on and trust no matter what the situation may be. The teachers that serve as role models and trustworthy leaders tend to be the ones that make the most difference in the lives of students. One day, I would like to be remembered for changing the lives of my students and open doors for them as they travel down their own paths of life. My greatest satisfaction in teaching will be the positive impact I have on the lives of my students.

There are many different levels one must consider when choosing the age group he wants to teach. I feel as if I would be effective in any age group of people. I enjoy all ages and would be content with working with any age group. I will be happy working

with young or older students, as long as I can make a difference in their lives. I will be able to learn and adjust each year with the students' learning levels.

One question that teachers might ask is: "What will be the most difficult aspect of teaching?" I believe my biggest difficulty will be the multicultural diversity within my classroom. Teachers are handed a classroom of students possessing their own individual beliefs and cultures. As a teacher, I will be working with all races, cultures, religions, and languages. The question I need to ask myself is: "What techniques and teaching methods can I use that will work efficiently?" As a student at Manchester College, I hope to gain as much knowledge as possible on the different cultures, religions, and languages that my students may possess. By learning the Spanish language, I will be able to interact with Spanish speaking students. I also hope to minor in mild interventions to help me become aware of how to teach children with disabilities. Religion, cultures, and races are all things I must take into consideration. I will use the diversity among my students to help make the classroom a more interesting place.

My family, friends, and teachers have all played an important part in my life. They have all led me down the path to becoming a teacher, and they will continue to encourage me as I work to make a difference in the lives of my students. It is my grandmother who has inspired me to follow my dreams and has taught me to never give up my dreams. My teachers have always told me to have a plan and look ahead at what is coming. Before entering the classroom, I have made sure to look ahead at the obstacles I will face as well as prepare a solution to each. As a prepared teacher, I will help my students reach for their dreams and overcome obstacles as they themselves travel down their paths of life.

References

Parkay, F. & Stanford, B. (2007). *Becoming a teacher*. (7th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.