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EDUC 111

25 February 2003

Teaching Credo

When thinking about teaching, I get excited about what my future will hold. No matter how many other careers have gone through my mind, teaching is something I've always known I wanted to do. There are many incredible teachers who have impacted my life in one way or another and influenced me to be a teacher myself. Besides past teachers, there are several other things in my life that have influenced me to become a teacher. Of course, planning on being a life long educator I have thought a lot about what my teaching philosophy would be and how I plan on teaching. I have always felt that those who care, teach.

A huge portion of my life has already been spent in a classroom. This is where I was inspired by my teachers. First, there's Mrs. Sample, she was my third grade teacher and the one who got me thinking that teaching was what I really wanted to do. Mrs. Sample had a way of connecting with her students that I had never had in another teacher. Not only was she excellent at teaching the material to make it fun, but she was a person that you knew would help you if you needed it. I had many good teachers after that, but the one that stands out the most is my favorite teacher of all time, Mr. Evans. Mr. Evans was my Ceramics teacher for 3 years in high school. He always treated his students as equals, no matter what he heard about them. He was a teacher that made all of his

students feel special. No matter what else was going on in your life you could come to his class and be able to enjoy yourself. He was definitely the best teacher.

All the wonderful teachers I've come across probably wanted to teach for the same reasons I do. I want to teach mainly because I want to be with children. I feel that my life's happiness will be having children and teaching children. I want to inspire children and spark an interest in them with something I teach them. I feel that I have most of the characteristics and skills a good teacher should have and I want to use them. I feel that children can teach adults a lot about life and I want to get the chance to learn from the children I teach. Teaching offers many rewards. For me, the most important reward will be the enjoyment I get from the children.

In order to be the kind of teacher I want to be, I need to form some kind of teaching philosophy that I want to use in my classroom. After learning about progressivism, essentialism, perennialism, existentialism, and behaviorism, I can't say that I completely agree with any one of them. I do feel, however that all of them have certain aspects that I would use. Essentialists believe that every child should be taught the basics; I agree that there are certain things that everyone should be taught. It would be nice if it were possible to teach each student as an individual, but this is not very practical for most classes. Progressivists believe that this is the best way to teach. I agree with the progressivism philosophy that teachers should work to make learning fun. Essentialism and progressivism are the two philosophies I agree with most. I hope to one day develop my own teaching philosophy which offers an optimum learning opportunity for my students.

Becoming a teacher is going to be the most important thing I do in my life. Thinking about who and what inspired me to be a teacher in the first place has reminded me how important teaching is to me. I hope that I will come up with a great teaching philosophy to use in my classroom to make me a better teacher. Again I say, “those who care, teach.”