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Teaching Credo
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My whole life I have always wanted to be a teacher. I personally have had so many influential teachers in my life and because of these teachers it has made me want to be all that I can be. I would say that I have had three teachers in my life who have lead me down the education path and have made me see that this is exactly where I belong. I want to have this kind of influence on my students as well. My hope is to reach out and make them want to be all that they can be as well. When I think of the prospect of me becoming a teacher, it is something that excites me greatly. With my passion, I hope to pass it on to my students and make them be passionate about learning as much as I am about teaching the subject matter.

The first teacher who really made me want to be a teacher would have to be Mr. Willaman. He was my fifth grade teacher. I honestly can not pin point the main reason that I found him to be such a positive influence on my life. He was always a very stern teacher, which I believe is an aspect that every classroom needs. He was able to discipline in a way that almost seemed logical. When you upset him, I knew that I had disappointed him. For some teachers, this would not have mattered, but he had a way to almost make you feel disappointed in yourself. Which I have found is the greatest form of discipline you can use. He also taught us all that we were equal. In my elementary years I struggled so much in school. In most classrooms, school work was dreaded for me. He went out of his way to not make me feel stupid and to make me feel just like everyone else in his classroom. We were all at an equal level.

Once in high school I had the pleasure of going back into his classroom my senior year for my cadet teaching placement. Since I was older, I wanted to see if he was still as good as what I thought he had been when I was a child. He was! I would have to say the main reason I found him to be such a great teacher is because he is very well rounded. He still used a lot of traditional ways of teaching, but had quirked them to make them fit his students. No lesson plan that we will ever teach will work for every students' styles of learning. I feel that he knew this and would find ways to hit home with everyone. The level of respect that students have for him is just unbelievable. This is something that I some day hope to achieve. I will say that every student who has graduated from Wawasee who had Mr. Willaman, almost always agrees with how excellent of a teacher he is. He has defiantly made his mark on many students.

Another big influence on my life would have to be Mr. Iden, who was my Senior Creative Writing teacher. He was such an amazing man. He took writing, a subject that some student would dread and made it fun. He was a teacher who completely taught out of the box. This however did make him lose some of the control in his classroom, but when questioned on this fact, he told me that it was worth it if our writing became better. This was the first time that I thought of the fact that sometimes there has to be some give and take on discipline. I always had the mind set that students should be in their seats completely quiet and doing their homework. This is no way for a student to fully use their imagination. This brought on the thought process that sometimes I will have to allow students to be in situations that create the opportunity to use their imagination.

The most influential teacher that I have had would have to be my mentor teacher while doing my student teaching. During my college years I would have to say that there

were many times that I questioned whether or not I was in the right profession. There was no doubt in my mind that I loved children, but I knew that this was not enough to truly be passionate about teaching. While in my second grade placement, Hilary really opened up a new door for me. I got to see how I could use all of this information that I had been taught as well as many things that I had never been taught, and actually implement them into the classroom. She showed me ways to make everything fit together that you would have never thought would have worked out. After I left this placement there was no longer any doubt in my head about what I should be doing with my life. I will forever be grateful to her.

My hope once I have my own classroom is to develop a classroom community. I want my children to feel a sense of self worth as well as ownership in our classroom. I believe that I can accomplish this by having students participate in the creation of my classroom rules as well as have classroom jobs. I also will set up the students' desk in pods so that students can learn to work cooperatively with each other. I believe that when a classroom has community it sets most students up for success. Not only do they have the positive influence of their teacher, but also of their peers. It is amazing how much can come from one student believing in other students.

For as long as I can remember, I have always wanted to be a teacher. It was not until I was in my last semester of college that I truly could tell someone why. Children are amazing beings. There is so much to learn from them and I completely enjoy the task of learning from them as well as teaching them. There is no better feeling then when a student has a light bulb go off in their head and you can see it on their face. My hope is to forever stay this passionate about teaching and to make all of my students passionate

about learning as I am. I come into this job knowing that I will never make a fortune at it, which is quite all right with me as long as there is some student out there that I can help create.