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## Educational Philosophy

### What goals have I set for myself as a teacher?

It is a marvelous occasion to be able to learn, and an even greater one to be able to teach. I aim to be aware of as much as possible when I am in and out of the classroom. I believe that with much hard work, I will stay focused on the necessity to have each student leave my classroom with someone new each day. It is important that I commit myself to the classroom and community and keep an open mind of new things that I can learn. I intend to stay enthusiastic about the learning process and always ready for new challenges. I plan to always look forward to my student's academic success and hope to learn just as much from them as they will me.

### Classroom Management Techniques

I believe that students of all ages need a sense of organization and procedure to function in the classroom. It is also important to involve students in the procedure making process. In my classroom, students will be given the opportunity to create a classroom system that works best for everyone including myself. I will give them time to set class rules, regulations, and consequences of what they feel are necessary for a manageable classroom. I believe that giving the students the floor to speak their mind grants them a sense of authority. When they are given that authority, it is necessary for them to uphold everything that they have created. I also believe that this authority allows them the chance to hold each other responsible for their actions. They are accountable for their peers, which leads to the students understanding their leadership roles.

### Parent/Guardian/Community Involvement

It is absolutely important for parents/guardians to be involved with their child's academic experience. Studies show that students with parent involvement have fewer behavioral problems as well as higher academic achievement. (Henderson, A.T., and N. Berla). Parental involvement allows the parents to observe what their child is learning and gives them a glimpse into the classroom. Getting to know the parent/guardian will give me a chance to learn more about the students' behavior, cultural background, religious beliefs, etc. which also helps enhance other student's learning experiences. I will constantly communicate with parents, whether it is by phone, e-mail, or news letter. I have been in several education environments in which the parents hardly cared about their son or daughter's work, and the student's work effort was at minimal to not at all. Those students' behavior begged for attention, regardless if it took hurting a peer or causing a disturbance in the classroom. I know what it means for these students to have someone care about their work effort, and my job is to get their parents/guardians involved at any cost.

Our society is very individualistic; we think about ourselves most of the time and expect others to think of us as well. Automatically, a child expects to receive but many never think about giving. I will change their point of view by involving them in different community projects, rather than the community giving to them. My students will have the opportunity to change the way we view the outside world. While there will be plenty of opportunities for fun field trips, I mostly look forward to the times when the students give back to others. I will introduce them to centers for families in need and involve them in helping out in any way possible, rather it be serving food, raising money, collecting can goods, or gathering old clothes and toys. I will also teach the students about environmental community service. They will be given tasks to help garden, plant seeds, or clean old, abandoned lots. I believe that these events will teach the students that they shape the future, and that helping others is the best gift to receive.

### Technology

Technology is one of the more important developments that help each of us communicate with each other, complete tasks, and shape our economy. It is also a rich tool for learning in the classroom. The computer combines text, audio, images and video into one medium. These features can enhance the description and presentation of thoughts and ideas. While there are many books that can teach our students a tremendous amount of information, the internet gives students of this time a chance to learn even more than a book can sometimes teach. I have seen in some classrooms the idea of an on-line source for parents to see their child's work ethic. Grades, attendance, examples of school work, as well as teacher communication is included in the source and I will definitely include it in my classroom. There are also many lessons that can be conveyed using a computer. ESOL/ESE students may have trouble with written work in the classroom at times, and seeing and hearing examples on computer programs may be a fun and easy way for them to learn what's necessary for their age/grade level.

### The Student Experience/ Learning Facilitation / My Student Goals/ Diversity

I want my students to enjoy learning. I want them to take advantage of the opportunity to learn, because not many people are blessed with the experience. I will make every effort to communicate to each student that I care about their learning process, and want the best for them. I recognize that there will be many times where my students need inspiration to create their own goals and aspirations, so I will do my best to create effective lesson plans that will initiate thought and activity. It is very important that my students recognize difference in

the classroom. We are not all the same, and that is a wonderful thing. Every opportunity I get, I will implement cultural facts, lessons, books, or even cooking lessons to let every student know that they are needed to make our classroom grow.

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