

My Philosophy of Education

As an educational leader my philosophy upon education is a two pronged approach. I feel that it is my duty to make every effort to serve as a role model for my students, while at the same time seeking to encourage students with an intrinsic value of life-long learning habits.

I encourage my students to be both independent and critical thinkers with strong work ethics.

I also emphasize enthusiastic attachment to one's work, inflexible moral character, awareness of current events, appreciation of & respect for cultural diversity, and to have courage of service with the aim of trying to be part of the solutions rather than part of the problems of our world.

In order to promote these values among my students, my first step is to remain active and very involved in their education as a teacher, advisor, mentor, and role model. The second step that I take is to attend and participate in extra-curricular activities that help the children learn and gain real world and book knowledge. I believe that being visible to the parents and to the community helps to both build and maintain a strong partnership that bridges the gaps in terms of ethnic and socioeconomic differences. I have no aversion to working hard at learning who my students are and building positive student teacher relationships with the intent to give me an advantage in my endeavor to recognize the barriers that may be keeping the students in my charge from understanding the subject matter that I love to teach. I encourage the students to be active and successful students. These obstacles may be hurdles such as lack of motivation, lack of self-confidence, inadequate prior preparation, external problems or pressures, indifference, etc. While I am not always successful in recognizing the obstacles that may be affecting my students, and even less frequently successful in removing them, I never stop trying to help my students in their efforts to learn and/or improve in there life skills and continued learning endeavors.

I have come to believe that the principle reason for a public school is for life preparation of students. Preparing students to function in society, teaching students how to think, and how to educate themselves should be the mission of every school in America. However, even these more general goals are not very useful when attempting to construct a teaching strategy for a specific class. Rather, more specific educational goals are needed for each class. As a class is just one small part of the school experience, the goal attained in a class should be one step toward the desired result, that is, an educated person. With this in mind, it is easier to judge the effectiveness of a class by examining if it furthers the goals of school education.

Business education is a great asset to high school education. I believe it helps prepare students for life in society by giving them an opportunity to learn problem solving skills, workplace skills, and preparation for daily life. It is my goal as a business teacher to help students begin to understand the world around them. In summary, teaching presents a challenge and an opportunity that I feel I am very capable of performing and performing well. I believe that learning is every American's birthright. I do not believe that education is a privilege, but rather it is a right. Thus, as a teacher I seek to support my students' learning and to facilitate it in my classroom, because learning is paramount.

Written by: Nikki Babineaux-Henry