

Frame of Reference

Education. It is an amazing concept that every human experiences. No one is able to predict where an education will come from because there are many different types of education and each type has a purpose that is determined by society. I believe that the main purpose of an education is to provide an individual with skills and tools to survive. Taking the purpose one-step further, an education will help to create well-rounded and knowledgeable individuals who have the ability to enhance society. As a teacher, my purpose will be to teach and make a difference, but I will only be able to do that if I hold a vision for my students. My vision is to create a safe and welcoming classroom where my students enjoy coming to my class. In addition, I want to see my students grow and mature as people, while watching how learning affects each of them. My vision will drive me to push forward during the rough times of my career.

The education that I provide for my students is only valuable if I am able to understand the different learning styles. It is essential that I am able to recognize that each person learns differently, as well as recognize the different learning styles that each of my students have. In order to teach to all of my students I need to be able to incorporate group work and individual work and have students actively participate in the lessons. It is the teacher's responsibility to develop diverse lesson plans that are structured, yet allow flexibility, as each student learns differently. The methods and strategies that I develop will be able to help the students and are based on the three learning styles: hands on learning, verbal learning and visual learning. My goal is to allow students to have a balance-learning environment.

The relationship between students, teachers and parents is crucial for creating a successful learning environment. In order to teach students the skills they need to survive and be successful, I must encourage a professional, cooperative and relaxed relationship with the parents and families of my students. I feel that this type of relationship between the adults in a child's life helps them to flourish in the future, as there is no added stress or burden. The same type of relationship is needed with the community as well. I believe that community support and encouragement provides a rich learning environment for the students inside and out.

Being a professional that follows the BCTF Code of Ethics and the TRB Standards will allow my classroom to be a warm and inviting space where the students feel safe and the staff and parents feel welcome. Furthermore, I believe maintain that professional relationship with the community allows them to see that I value my classroom as well as the students' learning environment and would not do anything to jeopardize that. The community is able to see the value that I place on learning because I follow the code of ethics and standards when I am in a public place.

As a future teacher, I believe that students learn the best when they are provided with a stable and structured classroom, while allowing the flexibility when needed. The structure of a daily calendar (that is always flexible) on the board allows the wonder of the day to be removed and allows to the students to concentrate on the skills and tasks needed for that day. Furthermore, I firmly believe

in incorporating class meetings as they teach the students respect of others, open communication and the ability to talk through their issues.

Assessment allows the teacher to see if the students are retaining the knowledge, tools and skills that they need to survive. Formal assessment, such as tests and collection of work, and informal such as observations and conferences with a student, will allow me to assess my students. Furthermore, descriptive feedback is necessary, as students need to know what they have done well and what they need to improve on. I will make sure that I never give a student a zero for not doing their work. The student will stay in at recess, lunch and after school if necessary until the work is done. Moreover, I understand it is a waste of my time to put comments and a letter grade on the same work document; therefore, as much as possible I will only put comments and descriptive feedback. It is my goal that through my assessment, students will know the grade that they have and there will be no surprises.

Teachers are life long learners who need to continually grow and develop new strategies and beliefs in how to teach the survival tools effectively; therefore, daily reflection is crucial to the organization of a teacher's thoughts. Reflection allows a teacher to assess how the day went but also makes overall notes about the children and their welfare. I will reflect daily, as it will allow me to grow as an individual and make sure I am teaching to the best of my ability in order for the students to learn to the best of their ability.