

My Teaching Philosophy

Jose Luis Jimenez Jr.

University of Mary

My Teaching Philosophy

Good teachers in a school are sometimes what make a child who they are and who they want to be like when they grow up. These teachers are special, and they all use different philosophies and methods to help their students. What I think good teachers define education as is something that should develop critical thinking and a good work ethic through empowering the child. This should be done by building relationships to help students grow in confidence, connecting with the real world, being honest with students, being optimistic, including all learners, and pushing students to create higher goals. These are the things that build a child and make them who they are and the type of character that they will become as adults.

Education should develop critical thinking. Critical thinking involves analyzing a problem, taking the problem apart, and being able to make a judgement or come up with a solution based on things we know to be true. A method I plan on implementing to nurture the growth of critical thinking within my classroom is to implement the core content I will be teaching, math, and connect and relate it to the real world and other subjects. Math is all about analyzing, taking things apart and putting them back together. Math is logical and math is perfect. Critical thinking is based on being able to dissect things logically to create a solution or judgement to something that might be difficult to swallow. In other words, critical thinking will be a constant method of thinking that will always be used in my classroom because of the use of math. The students will constantly practice critical thinking by analyzing and solving problems, and I will teach them how there can sometimes be an infinite amount of ways to solve a problem. Guiding students in learning how to critically think through math is my main point of my philosophy.

Education should develop a good work ethic. A good work ethic is when someone is on top of things and is responsible for all that he or she does. Part of developing a good work ethic is growing in responsibility. People who are responsible are responsible because they have a goal in mind and they want to reach it, and the only way to reach the goal is to be responsible and work hard. Not only this, but they begin to learn it isn't all about themselves and being selfish. This is when people grow up. This is the line that separates kids from adults, and it is part of a teacher's job to help a student grow up in this way. A teacher must push students to reach higher goals. This can be done by including all students in the classroom. Those who exceed need to be pushed even farther and the same goes with those that are falling behind. Relationships must be built with the students so they may be more confident in what they are capable of accomplishing so they can reach these higher goals.

This leads me to my last point. Education should empower students. Teachers need to show students the importance of education. Showing them that the work they put in school now will affect them for the rest of their lives. The way in which I will show my students how education should empower them is to push them. Help them build that good work ethic and build their confidence, but at the same time being honest with them. Sure, they may never have to know about parabolas again, but that doesn't mean they shouldn't give up on them. They should take some pride in the fact that they are learning so many new things in such a short amount of time. Another thing is building relationships of trust with the students so that they like me. If they like me then they might look up to me, and if they look up to me then I'll get the chance to be a good role model for them by putting in the extra effort for them.

When people think about a good teacher, they have had in the past they think about all the things they learned from that teacher. When I get old, I am not going to remember everything

about biology. I am going to remember the things that helped me grow up. I am going to remember how my teachers pushed me to work harder to achieve even higher goals. I am going to remember how my teachers taught me to work hard so that I can earn my grade. So, this is what I am going to try to do. I am going to make the educational setting in my classroom one that fosters a good work ethic, develops critical thinking, and one that empowers the student. I will build relationships with my students so they may like me and so they may be able to trust me when I tell them they can achieve a goal with some hard work, responsibility, and critical thinking. This is my teaching philosophy and I believe that this will allow my future students to go out into the world and foster change.