

Statements of Beliefs

- The purpose of education is to provide children the knowledge of the world and people around them to understand life and society.
- A teacher's role is to guide students toward knowledge and show commonalities between real-life knowledge and events.
- While at school, and even outside of school, students are wards of teachers. As such, they should always be aware of their student's privacy and well-being.
- A classroom will contain a variety of students. It is the teacher's responsibility to teach in various ways to cover all learning domains, ensuring each student has the opportunity to learn.
- Every student deserves the chance to be taught – no matter their differences.
- I believe that it is essential to accept diversity. Recent events have shown us that this acceptance is not taught often enough. I want to teach – and **show** – students that social change is crucial and necessary.

Philosophy of Education

Discovering a philosophy of education is essential for candidate teachers. The philosophy helps guide the teachers to make sure they reach their goals throughout their teaching career. Finding your philosophy of education takes research into influential philosophies, a lot of thought, and reflection.

A summary of my teaching philosophy is that a combination of teacher- and student-centered learning allows a teacher to interact, teach, and learn with all students in the classroom. This approach enables the teacher to instill an appreciation for lifelong learning and improve students' self-esteem and reach their full potential. This philosophy is based on the following statements:

The purpose of education is to provide children the knowledge of the world and people around them to understand life and society. Having a young child influenced this statement. Watching him grow through infancy and toddlerhood showed that learning is everywhere. Education helps educators – whether they are teachers or parents – give children knowledge of the world and find their place in society.

A teacher's role is to guide students toward knowledge and show commonalities between real-life knowledge and events. Relating closely to the progressivism philosophy of education, I believe that real-world experience

facilitates learning. “The most important lessons of life are found not on the pages of books, ...but in the real world.” (Sadker & Zittleman, 2018, p. 165)

While at school, and even outside of school, students are wards of teachers. As such, they should always be aware of their student’s privacy and well-being. As Calhoun shared in his TEDx video, teachers have many roles: entertainer, educator, mother, counselor, and counselor. (TEDx Talks, 2016) Many of these roles are caregivers and fit my belief that teachers should be aware of their students’ privacy and well-being.

A classroom will contain a variety of students. It is the teacher’s responsibility to teach in various ways to cover all learning domains, ensuring each student has the opportunity to learn. Incorporating different learning styles helps all students in the classroom absorb the information that’s taught. Using visual, kinesthetic, and auditory activities for each lesson adds various learning experiences and keeps instruction lively.

*My last two beliefs are related: Every student deserves the chance to be taught – no matter their differences, And I believe that it is essential to accept diversity. Recent events have shown us that this acceptance is not taught often enough. I want to teach – and **show** – students that social change is crucial and necessary. Students that fall outside the “norm” can also fall to the wayside in a classroom setting if the teacher doesn’t make an effort to include them. Teachers*

need to show their students how important acceptance is for the classroom's diversity, regardless of whether that diversity is skin color or learning ability.

When I took a Strengths Finder quiz, my top five strengths were Empathizer, Coach, Time Keeper, Philomath, and Optimist. (*Free Strengths Test | Find Your Unique Talents and Character Traits*, n.d.) I feel that these strengths are perfect for a teacher. Looking back at Calhoun's TEDx presentation, they also fall in line with explaining the various roles a teacher has in the class and with students.

After reflecting on my statement of beliefs and my strengths test results, I believe that my current philosophy statement is accurate for now. Still, as I learn and grow through this program and as a teacher, I understand that my philosophy statement should also evolve. Teachers should not be stagnant in their teaching or learning, and their philosophy statement should reflect that.

References

- Free Strengths Test | Find Your Unique Talents and Character Traits.* (n.d.). HIGH5 TEST. Retrieved January 9, 2021, from <https://high5test.com/>
- Sadker, D. M., & Zittleman, K. R. (2018). *Teachers, schools, and society: A brief introduction to education* (Fifth Edition). McGraw-Hill Education.
- TEDx Talks. (2016, November 22). *Role of a Teacher | John Calhoun.*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAkvpQmkgBQ>