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Philosophy of Education

 My purpose for going into the educational field is fairly simple. I want to teach the youth of America how to follow their HEART to achieve dreams, to use all their BODY to express themselves, and KNOWLEDGE to make the World their own. The unknown in the world can be scary but by teaching children to not be afraid and reach their full potential by using their heart, mind, and body they will succeed in some way.My childhood I grew up in a privilege home. I was able to have anything I needed at my fingertips. I want my students, regardless of their background, to know the possibilities this world can offer everyone! I want to excite them to make a difference.

 I think children learn by example. They look up to anyone who will give them the time of day. They just want to be heard. Not just under privilege children but even the privilege ones want a voice too. I want to put my students’ needs first. John Dewey, the Father of Modern Education, helped change the educational systems focus from teacher-based oriented to student-based oriented in 1956 along with other theorist. This approach requires students to be active in their own learning. For example, I like to think of it as a ‘teacher-as-coach’ relationship. They need to excited students to learn how to learn and therefore be able to teach themselves in the future situations. Overall, my students need to make an effort towards their education in order to be the best they can be and get the best out of their schooling.

 My belief that students need to be active in the learning process will impact many different ways of my teaching process. First, I will focus on my management skills because being able to keep Elementary students focused for a period of time takes practice and patience. In my classroom I plan on having a set time to instruct the students to show them what to do. I will not talk longer than 15 minutes per instruction because their attention span is short. I want to kids to be comfortable with me to ask questions as they come up, especially with the younger grades because you will have to example activities multiple times to some students than others. Second, I want my curriculum design to be filled with “hands on” activities. As I stated earlier I want my students to be active in their learning process. I believe they will get the most out of something by actually doing it themselves. For example, say I am teaching a science lesson on plant life. I will physically have my students plant a certain type of plant and write down what they see over the course of the project. Finally, I will assess my student in three types of responses: selected, constructed, and performance based. An example I would use as a selected-response would be to give the students a worksheet dealing with numbers and they would have to draw a certain picture that many times. An example of a constructed-response would be giving them a picture of something and they have to tell you what it is. An example of a performance-response is having each child write the alphabet while watching.

 Therefore, a role of the kind of teacher I want to strive for has a characteristic of guidance. Their guidance of learning with the abilities their classroom possesses. The guidance of being there for your students 100% of the time spent with them each day. The guidance a child may need in order to have faith in their abilities to do wonderful things. A teacher needs to set up problems for their students that push them socially, intellectually, and physically outside their boundaries.

 Also the role a teacher must play applies to the community as well. I believe the teacher must set the motto of “change” out into the community. Sometimes we take for granted our resources available to us. I remember a time when I was in Elementary school and we wanted to help the community “go green.” We decided to build a garden where each classroom was responsible for a certain vegetable to grow. It taught me so many things: patience, responsibility, and my awareness with my surroundings. Let the children be actively involved in the community to get them hands on experience with the world instead of just talking about it.

 Understanding the World can be a difficult task to accomplish in a classroom. In the Elementary school grades this can be especially difficult because you must choice your words carefully. As an educator I plan to make a point every week about relating some kind of subject to a specific event that is currently happening. I even catch myself going through the motions of life not even thinking about how people are risking their lives for our freedom every day. I think by exposing these kinds of events, obviously avoiding the gruesome details, will help them get a better understanding and appreciation of the world. I know many of us don’t want to admit it but we live in a “bubble” society. A society that only shows or tells us what is relevant to our country. I believe we need to be expose children to the crisis of this world in through many different ways throughout the school year.

 Diversity can be a touchy subject to some people. It has taken a long time for classrooms to become diverse. If I had to define my community of learners based on my instructional strategies it would be to strive to set a positive environment in my classroom at all time. Depending on where your school is located at will also play a role in addressing this topic. I come from a private school where it was made up of 80 percent white male or female and 20 percent a mixture of other races male or female. However, I never once felt like the minority race students were treated differently. My school valued each individual is different and chosen to be here for a purpose. I want to strive to view every child as a learner. They can be a fast learner or slow, they could be white or mixed. Regardless of what they look like or come from I want my students to feel like they have the possibility to be great, just like anyone else in the world, as long as they put some effort into their learning.