

## **Philosophy of Education**

I have always believed that your educational philosophy can help guide your decisions in life. It is my faith under the guiding principles that drives me to offer the most for the constituents under my charge and that starts with two important tasks. The first of which is to make school a safe place for all students no matter what their background or social status. The second and a most powerful are to show that I care, about everything in the student's lives, from the long walk to school to the long walk home. It is not enough in today's educational environment to simply do what you love. It is my belief that your 'vocation' must be your 'avocation,' you must love what you do.

As Principal my role in developing working relationships with parents and students is important to ensuring that respect, commitment, and trust are integral parts of the schools program and philosophy. As an effective school principal I will need to be a diplomat of the educational institution I represent. I must present an educated, transparent, and responsible profile to the school community. Respect is a two way street with traffic on both sides. You have to cross over to get it. That means you have to be humble at times, ready to express humility, willing to go the extra mile, to work the long hours, sleepless nights, and build the school program so that the parents become not only your biggest supporters, but your biggest asset to the learning and safety of their child. Students will often listen better, learn better, and live better lives when their parents are actively engaged in the process. As a successful school Principal I must develop programs that allow for maximum participation between student, parent, and school. Assisting with special projects on campus, committee assignments, incentive planning, associations, certifications, tutorials, after school programs, and competitions, all of these things are needed to try and capture the desire and commitment of parents and the trust of the students in school.

Establishing the trust of the student body through communication, transparency, and accessibility is highly effective. If the students and faculty truly believe there is nothing more important to me when I am with them, than to see them succeed, they will feel that, they will live that, and I will be effective in what I seek to accomplish. A most important contribution to that success is 'visibility', I must be involved in their daily school life, whether that's in morning announcements, participation in school activities, walking the hallways, team teaching, mentoring, counseling, or whatever it takes, I must be visible in the eyes of the students. As the school principal I must be ready, willing, and able to fill in where needed, and that may mean a considerable amount of work being accomplished outside the normal school day. Community meetings, discussion groups, parental recognition ceremonies, connecting with local agencies, there are so many great things you can do to win the hearts and minds of all members of your school community. And that kind of success doesn't just happen; you have to make it happen, with hard work, dedication, love, loyalty and compassion. My mission in life is my profession, I am an educator, a school leader, and the students in my charge come before my personal gains.

I truly believe that it is this approach to learning, to designing the educational environment that will provide students the keys to the doors to which they will open and walk into a world ready to take it on. Our schools are indeed not only institutions of learning that provide children with the tools to develop their skills, but a place they are connected to, a place where they feel safe, a place where unconditional acceptance of who they are and of their individual potential for learning and growth are celebrated.

I cannot help but feel all the arguments in the world about money, taxes, politics, the environment, are insignificant to the reality that we as human beings have a greater servant purpose, a greater moral calling to our race, to pass on what we know to all those we encounter, good, bad, disruptive or not, that we educate them, treat them dignity in our words, with compassion in our eyes and with unconditional love in our hearts.