**Philosophy of Education**

I have dreamed of being a teacher ever since I was a little girl. Having the ability to directly influence students’ lives five days a week is a beautiful privilege. I hope to be the teacher that students remember best when they reflect back on their educational career. I want to be that teacher who dreamed big for them, who saw their great potential, and who loved them not only as a student but also as an individual. I desire to be that teacher.

I do not believe the sole purpose of education is to simply add knowledge to the minds of children. The goal of education exceeds far beyond that basic idea. As students, children grow as individuals. They grow intellectually, physically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. The role of a teacher is to challenge students in all areas of life. It is to have students think beyond themselves. I believe the purposes of education include the following: to develop students that become life-long learners, to encourage students to do their best in everything, and to inspire students to follow their dreams. The School of Education’s Conceptual Framework states the belief that not only should students become life-long learners, but teachers should be such learners as well (Education, 2012).

All teachers have varying qualities. As an educator, I believe it is essential to have a deep love and passion for children. An educator should receive a sense of accomplishment when he or she witnesses a student comprehending something for the very first time. A teacher’s role is not only to teach students the given topic. A teacher has a multitude of jobs all wrapped into one. Educators are responsible for teaching students how to be self-motivated. Educators serve as role models. Students often look to teachers for advice and guidance. It is important for educators to set guidelines, establish goals, ignite creative ideas, and remain optimistic. As a teacher, my role is to strengthen the intelligence of my students while guiding them on their life journey. Teachers are to be instructors, counselors, encouragers, active listeners, and leaders. Campbellsville University School of Education’s Conceptual Framework parallels the belief that teachers are to be effective leaders in the lives of students (Education, 2012).

I would consider my viewpoint on education to be a blend of essentialist and progressive ideas. It is so important to help students develop a basic understanding of key concepts in all subjects. I believe students should be taught from a textbook; however, I do not believe textbooks should be the only resource used for instructing. Students need to learn the core content, but this can be accomplished through a variety of techniques. Lectures may be appropriate, but other times, group activities are more suited for student learning. I believe projects that align with the content are greatly beneficial. Students often need to comprehend the information and then apply such information to everyday life. Applying concepts to everyday life aligns more with progressive ideals. I want my students to be actively engaged at all times throughout the day. My classroom will be a place of interaction and discussion. Multiple hands-on activities will be included within my lessons along with visual aids. Children learn in all different ways. I believe it is important to teach in a way that addresses all learning styles. I plan on presenting the content to my class in a variety of ways so that each child’s learning style is met. Therefore, my teaching will be multi-dimensional.

I strongly believe that school is not a place to only be taught facts and statistics. It is a place to discover who you are as a person. It is a place where students gain intelligence, understanding, social skills, encouragement, and personality. Students are to be given the opportunity to explore, participate, and ask questions. The founder of progressivism, John Dewey, believed in the importance of providing students with a more active role in the classroom (Kauchak & Eggen, 2014). This is what I will seek to offer my students. Teachers must be dedicated to helping children grow as individuals. Students encounter many stages in life, and teachers can offer a helping hand along the way. I believe it is my personal duty as an educator to support students as they grow and discover who they are as a learner and individual.

I have many goals for my future students. As their teacher, I want my students to reach their full potential, accept challenges, and possess curiosity. However, the main goal I have for each of my students is that they would be inspired by my love of learning and choose to be all that they were created to be.