

# PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

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I decided I wanted to become an educator after having many positive experiences with teachers in high school. It was evident that they cared deeply about their students and their job so much that they enjoyed coming into work every day. Having spent the last four years studying education, I can confidently say that my philosophy has been morphed and molded, although the same core values still stand: make connections with students, have high expectations, and have fun doing it all.

All too often students are coming up through middle school into high school with a predisposition to disliking mathematics. Whether they had a bad experience in a previous math class or they never got to fully understand the beauty of math, I cannot wait for them to get to me. Having been where those students were I understand what it feels like to be the last person in the room to grasp a concept. These students many times feel overwhelmed and frequently do not have enough confidence in their abilities. As an educator I believe it is my responsibility to make my students feel comfortable in the learning environment they are in. In addition, I want them to be able to be willing to take chances knowing that failure is a crucial component of learning.

Students' comfortability in the classroom is directly dependent upon how my classroom climate is and how well I know my students. I believe that knowing students on a personal level does away with the disconnect between teacher and learner. Through frequently attending sporting events, concerts, plays, etc... I will be able to develop rapport with my students that will make a meaningful difference in their participation and work they produce. If students are not producing good work, I believe in the importance of talking with the student to understand their behaviors. Many times teachers do not take into consideration the students' lives outside of school that could be drastically impacting their performances. Empathizing with students and their specific situations can make a great deal of difference in the work that they produce.

As a teacher I have the opportunity to shape America's youth and teach them core values outside of just the content. Plato's educational philosophy is that the purpose of education is to help students grow and develop their character and ability to do good. In addition, that they will be trained for citizenship and leadership in and outside of the classroom curriculum. While I believe content is important, it is not the only component of education.

After deciding I wanted to be a teacher I have payed close attention to all the different experiences I could learn from—good or bad. This statement will continuously change over the course of my teaching career. Regardless, I know it is important to maintain an open mind with teaching and be flexible for change. Doing what's best for the students may vary, and that is what my philosophy will need to adapt to.