

Teaching Philosophy

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Why I became a teacher

Being a teacher has been a dream of mine for a long time, especially when I thought about being able to change the lives of students. For me, it took one teacher who pushed me to be my best and who genuinely cared about me to help me realize that this career would be fulfilling for me as well. I hope to be that teacher to someone someday. I strive to help my students grow and form new and exciting ideas through the study of social studies. I feel that this sentiment stems from my own fondness for continued learning and new discovery. My ultimate goal is to facilitate this same love of learning within my students.

What I teach

As a social studies teacher, my primary goal is to help students understand the world around them by viewing it through the looking glass of history, as well as by utilizing the themes of economics, geography, and the social sciences. The tools that I will be teaching my students are those that will help them navigate the topics of culture and civic awareness keenly. Content is not all that I would like to focus on however. In my classroom, I believe that creating a foundation of good behaviors, such as compassion and conscientiousness are important for student development, especially at the high school level. Through discussion and debate, I would also like to stress the importance of fostering growing communication skills. Also, as we all know, there have been times in history where conflict has risen and people have chosen sides. As we go through these common themes in lessons, I will strive to facilitate an environment of respect and camaraderie.

How I teach

As a social studies teacher, I know that notes can seem extensive and overwhelming to students. Because of this, I strive to find differentiated ways to present notes that are still comprehensive, but also enjoyable for students. I also have a passion for cooperative learning activities that can foster communication, collaboration, and other key social skills. For high school students, these skills are especially important to support the development of because they will help them succeed after graduation. I do recognize, however, that not all students are able to work at the same pace as those around them. It would be my goal to always be available for students to ask questions outside of class, but I firmly believe that some time being given during class for work can help students feel more confident about their work when they go home to complete it.

How I measure effectiveness

I measure my effectiveness by looking at my student's achievements in my class, and this is not only grades by their overall disposition in my classroom. I can tell when everyone is lost in my classroom, or when my students are not being as productive or engaged as usual. This can tell me that I need to change my teaching strategy to help get the classroom environment back on track and help my students better understand what we are learning. I will do anything to help my students be more successful in my class. Of course, their grades are a direct reflection of my effectiveness as well, but I feel that students should be focused on more in the moment.