Teaching Philosophy

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education”- Martin Luther King Jr.

This quote from Martin Luther King, Jr. best describes my educational philosophy, because I believe that education is not only meant to shape a child's intellect so they can grow academically, but also give them the social and emotional skills they will need to navigate the world they will be using their academic skills in. As an educator, I will be able to teach my students how to learn from their mistakes, take ownership for their world, and encourage their life-long learning. Students need to know that they can learn from the information of the past, such as how to treat others with the ‘Golden Rule’, and also how to use the technology of the future, especially as it grows more prevalent in their constantly changing world.

To achieve this goal, I will use intrinsic motivation to motivate my students to take pride in themselves rather than the external rewards they might get. By motivating my students with internal rewards, such as positive encouragement, and not with external rewards, such as treats or prizes, I can help my students build their self-esteem and self-trust so they can enjoy learning and make it their own life-long adventure. I will also use cooperative learning, such as centers and interactive, technological, and hands-on projects that not only build their academic interests and knowledge, but also help them build better social interactions with others and study ways they can apply this knowledge outside of the classroom.

My students will not only be learning from me, but I will be learning from them. Teaching is about constant growth and learning. I can teach my students the academics and social interactions they will need to be successful and think critically about their world, but my students can teach me about myself as a teacher, determine the strategies I use to educate them, and how I can improve my teaching for future classes. Students’ personalities and backgrounds vary greatly, which will allow me to develop positive strategies that will work with future students, while encouraging them to grow to their full potential both in and out of the classroom. As an educator, learning from my students will create a secure learning environment that allows my students to take risks in learning, while creating a classroom in which all of my past, present, and future students can grow into people who think critically about the world both academic interests and social interactions.