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Quality over Quantity

My Teaching Philosophy

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It is not uncommon for students of all grades to come home with large amounts of homework. Too often, teachers feel that the more homework a student is given, the more effectively the student will learn the material. It seems to be forgotten that students have more than just one particular class, along with extra-curricular activities and home lives. Students are being taught that the only way to succeed in a class, is to do large amounts of work. I believe that students will learn more effectively if they are given less amounts of work, but have questions of higher quality.

Moreover, I want to be a teacher because it's always something I've had interest in. I plan on teaching anywhere in the middle to high school grades. I've had plenty of classes with poor teachers that left students with a sour perception of a certain subject or class. I want to make sure the students I teach will enjoy the class and not look at it in a negative way since its "school", and that was a factor in me wanting to become a teacher. Additionally, a large part of my family are teachers or in education. A lot of the ideas and views that helped me form my philosophy on teaching have come from my past experiences with teachers. I feel that my strengths are that I'll always know that my class is not a student's only class, and that a lot of students also have an extra curricular activity they are apart of. I know that some students will not like the subject I'm teaching and I can't make everyone like it, so I'll just try my best to make it the most enjoyable I can for those students.

Furthermore, in math classes specifically, a lot of teachers will give out many problems that are just repetitive and easy. Instead of giving so many problems, I would give a couple easy ones to practice the basics, but then I would give a couple harder ones and some critical thinking problems to help them apply what they just learned. The role of the student is to simply show up

to each class ready to learn, and open to new thoughts and/or ideas. The student should give the teacher their full attention and understand that the teacher is there to help them learn. However, even though the students should be open to new thoughts or ideas, they do not need to accept them, they just need to be aware of them. In order to ensure the students will be prepared for this role, the teacher must explain to the students that they will not expect the students to know or remember everything, but to at least try their hardest to learn the material. The role of the teacher is not to just give the students information, let them go, and expect them to learn everything. A teacher is there to provide the students with information, and then guide them on how to put that information to use and how to use that information. Depending on the age and skill level of the students, the teacher may have to do more or less guiding, but the teacher is still there to help the students understand the information.

In addition, an effective teacher is a teacher who can meet all the students needs, connect with the students through the curriculum, and always trying to improve a lesson. When teaching a lesson, a teacher could teach part of it in a traditional lecture, and then teach another part of it using technology of some sort. This would be useful because some students learn very well through a standard lecture, and there's some students that require a more visual aspect or more hands on aspect in order to better grasp a concept. While teaching a lesson, I could connect with students through the curriculum by relating the curriculum to something in real life or a student's personal life. Also, looking for ways or trying to improve a lesson shows that the educator is wanting to improve their lesson to try and help the students learn more effectively.

Further, a school is not only a place for students to learn and expand their knowledge, but it is also a place where students can meet and interact with other people and increase their social skills. The most important function though, is to be a place where students can come to learn.

However, if the students do not get to interact with their peers, they will have more of a sour attitude and this could affect their want to learn. The main purpose of school, to me, is to provide a fun and safe environment that allows students to learn effectively. Additionally, I think the learning purpose of a school is not to push all the information on to the students and say they need to know all of it, but just to simply provide them with all that different information and let them choose what they want to do with it.

In conclusion, in the school and classroom, there are many different types of students, but they are not all classified by their academic ability. However, there are different types of students that have to do with personality and culture. In order to help ensure all students learn I will do some research into any culture I am not familiar with to help get a better understanding of any students in my class of that culture. By giving homework that puts an emphasis on the quality of problems and not on the amount of homework, it will help the students better understand the material. Also, I would try to get some background knowledge of each student to help me think of ways I could better connect with a student and help them learn more effectively. Additionally, to keep the parents involved in their child's education, I would send home occasional grade checks that the parents would have to sign off on. I would make all the grades available online for each parent to look at so they can see how their child is doing.