

## Teaching Philosophy

Relationships, adaptability, commitment, enthusiasm, and selflessness not only describe my teaching philosophy but also my personality and what I believe are vital qualities people should live by. When I present my teaching philosophy to people they believe the acronym 'RACES' is a play on words because I am a collegiate runner. While it is fitting, it is much deeper than that at the same time. Relationships and selflessness are the book ends to who I am, they are two qualities I pride myself on and will to the best of my ability bring out in my future students. Commitment stands in the middle of the acronym because that is the central quality teachers should hold in their hearts – the commitment to the children in their classroom. Adaptability and enthusiasm fit my teaching style (and the acronym) perfectly because they can't be completed without them. The greatest teachers are able to adapt and are enthusiastic about what they are doing, they are excited to see the children learn.

Building relationships with students is the part one of the two most important pieces of my teaching philosophy because a student will not want to learn in my classroom until I have shown them I care about more than just the grade they have in the gradebook but the student participating in my class. My father who is also an educator told me once, "Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care." He told me this when I informed him I was going to pursue a degree in education and this left a lasting impact on me and changed not just my outlook on teaching but my outlook on life and every relationship I have with people.

Being able to adapt to any situation thrown my way is a vital piece of my teaching philosophy because nothing will ever go exactly as I plan it. There may be a game I envision in my head but when it begins, it is not what I envisioned and need to be able to make

adjustments on the fly. Also, as a PE teacher there will be times the gym is not able to be utilized and I will need to find another way to make sure my students have access to be physically active that day. Being able to adapt my teaching style to fit the needs of students is also important as different classes will have different ways they need to be taught. Every lesson is different and needs to be adapted justly.

As I said at the start of my paper, commitment falls in the middle of my philosophy because it is impossible to be an effective teacher and not be committed to the students in my class. I am committed to molding more than the minds of the students in my classroom but even more importantly the individuals that will be productive pieces of society after they are done with my class. Commitment goes beyond the 45-90-minute class period as well. If a student is struggling with a concept or needs to make up an assignment, I will be there for them but not so they can have a grade in the grade book, but because the information or concept they missed is important for them to know later on in life.

The next piece of my teaching philosophy is enthusiasm. When I was a student I was in classes where the teacher was not excited to teach what they were teaching and thus I was not excited to learn what they were teaching. On the other hand, I had teachers who were ecstatic about what they were teaching us each and every day. Myself, along with my classmates walked into those classes ready to learn every day. Students model the behavior and attitude of the teacher. I am committed to showing enthusiasm and bringing life to every lesson I teach in order to help my students become excited about what we are learning in class.

The final piece of my teaching philosophy is being selfless. I didn't get into this profession for myself, but rather for my students. I have a deep love for being physically active

and healthy, and it is my goal to help my students find that same love for being physically fit.

Teaching is not a 7:30-3:30 job, but demands much more time than that. Students are the most important piece of a school community and should be treated in that manner. Without students, there is no school. I am willing to give up little things in my life (lunch breaks, prep periods, time before and after school) to ensure that a student succeeds.

While I have touched on the five key points of my teaching philosophy, there is much more to be known. This is only the tip of the iceberg. While this is only a piece of the puzzle, building relationships, the ability to adapt, a commitment to student's success, bringing enthusiasm every day, and being selfless with my time are the cornerstones of what I believe a teacher should exemplify.