

Morgan Schwarz

EDUC 200/450

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An Educational Philosophy: *Building Successful Leaders for Tomorrow's Generation*

As John F. Kennedy, the thirty-fifth president of the United States, once said, "Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation." Each day in the classroom is filled with activities and lessons that will guide each student to success while becoming a strong, powerful, and successful leader for tomorrow and into the future.

Building upon the experiences that I have encountered, one belief that strongly influences my philosophy the most is ensuring that learning is fun for students. Students will generally set aside their worries, concerns, and issues if they forget that they are actually doing "work." Singing, dancing, chanting, playing, drawing, coloring, and laughing will be essential in the classroom. However, structured lessons and difficult assignments can be fun while ensuring the students that I do, in fact, believe in their abilities to succeed aside from the expectations which are set forth. My students will understand and observe that I do enjoy teaching and want the best work that they can give.

While ensuring that the students are having fun while "working," I will incorporate group work and collaboration which enhances character development and social skills which will follow them the rest of their lives. As mentioned in my title, building leaders for tomorrow's generation, teamwork and collaboration is vital in succeeding in the future. Honesty, cooperation, respect, commitments, and compromises are only a few important characteristics that students will learn from group work. In

addition, I strongly believe that children learn by doing specific skills through hands-on activities and experiments coming from their own mind and thoughts.

Another significant part of my educational philosophy is classroom management. Discipline through self-control, rules, routines, and procedures are a foundation that will lead to high student achievement in my classroom. Setting positive expectations and treating students with respect will give students the opportunity to make decisions on their own. The positive expectations set in the classroom are the base ground for each student to aim for his/her goals that year. All of these methods of classroom management and teaching will keep my students working positively, productively, and collaboratively.

As academics and collaboration is essential, how the students academically collaborate with each other is important, as well. I will strive to provide and create an atmosphere that values diversity and supports social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. In the classroom, we will learn through exploring each other's open views and by sharing our knowledge, skills, and experiences with each other.

Ensuring that each student feels safe and at ease while learning, having fun, collaborating with peers, and doing hands-on activities, will lead each student who walks out of my classroom doors on their way to become successful leaders of tomorrow's generation.