Leading Students on the Path to Education

I believe that teaching is like leading students on a path, and preparing students to be able to successfully navigate their educational path that lies ahead. I base my teaching philosophy on three pillars: motivation, student-teacher relationships, and preparation. These three pillars are the basis of my philosophy because I have found them to be—from my experiences with educators and as a student—the most important and influential factors in teaching and learning.

Motivation is the first step in guiding students on their education journey. I believe that helping to motivate students is an integral part of effective teaching. I have always valued learning under a motivational educator because the encouraging, positive atmosphere increased my eagerness to be involved in the learning process and to do well. In order to motivate students, I will employ interactive, hands-on teaching methods. This style of teaching is one that, according to my philosophy, will start students down the ‘path’ that I am leading them.

Additionally, I plan to invest the time and effort required inside and outside the classroom to develop a professional and mutually beneficial student-teacher relationship. I will become a knowledgeable educator in the subjects I teach, and provide reliable information to all learners. I believe that when a teacher has credibility with his/her students, the student can more easily trust the educator’s guidance on the education pathway. Additionally, I think that “The Golden Rule,” (treat others the way you want to be treated) applies well to my view on the student-teacher relationship. In general, students will treat their teacher in accordance with how their teacher treats them. By giving respect to my students, I expect them to in-turn respect myself and their classmates, thus creating a positive learning environment.

The final pillar in my philosophy of teaching is perhaps the most important. It is every teacher’s responsibility to prepare students with the skills, knowledge, and resources to be able to be successful on the “path that lies ahead.” I want to leave students feeling confident in their ability to take the next step in their educational journey. I hope to provide my students with the skills, knowledge, and resources that they will need to prevail when faced with obstacles in their continued educational pathway.

Teaching is like leading learners down a path, no matter how rough the road or deep the forest.