

Philosophy of Teaching

“Preach by example, and Practice before the eyes of the young what you wish them to Accept.”

-John Baptist De La Salle

I believe that each child is a unique individual who needs a secure, caring, and stimulating atmosphere in which to grow and mature emotionally, intellectually, physically, and socially. It is my desire as an educator to help students meet their fullest potential in these areas by providing an environment that is safe, supports risk-taking, and invites a sharing of ideas. Following the LaSallian Mission set forth by our Christian Brothers has led me to believe that there are three crucial elements essential in establishing such an environment: 1.) the teacher acting as a guide, 2.) allowing the child's natural curiosity to direct his/her learning, and 3.) promoting respect for all things and all people.

“Inspire And Lead Others By Encouraging Them.”

- John Baptist De La Salle

When the teacher's role is to guide, providing access to information rather than acting as the primary source of information, the students' search for knowledge is met as they learn to find answers to their questions. For students to construct knowledge, they need the opportunity to discover for themselves and practice skills in authentic situations. Providing students access to hands-on activities and allowing adequate time and space to use materials that reinforce the lesson being studied creates an opportunity for individual discovery and construction of knowledge to occur.

“The Way You Behave Should Be A Model For Those You Teach.”

-John Baptist De La Salle

Equally important to self discovery is having the opportunity to study things that are meaningful and relevant to one's life and interests. Developing a curriculum around student interests fosters intrinsic motivation and stimulates the passion to learn. One way to take learning in a direction relevant to students' interest is to invite student dialogue about the lessons and units of study. Given the opportunity for input, students generate ideas and set goals that make for much richer activities than I could have created or imagined myself. When students have ownership in curriculum, they are motivated to work hard and master the skills necessary to reach their goals.

“Have Great Respect For Each Person You Are With.”

-John Baptist De La Salle

Helping students to develop a deep love and respect for themselves, others, and their environment occurs through an open sharing of ideas and a careful approach to discipline. When the voice of each student is heard, and environment evolves where students feel free to express themselves. Class meetings are one way to encourage such dialogue. I believe children have greater respect for their teachers, their peers, and the lessons presented when they feel safe and sure of what is expected of them. In setting fair and consistent rules initially and stating the importance of every activity, students are shown respect for their presence and time. In turn they learn to respect themselves, others, and their environment.

