

Philosophy of Education

The purpose of education is to develop a community of lifelong learners

One way to develop a student's lifelong learning abilities is through "inquiry". Inquiry occurs when students are given a product based activity. During the production the teacher focuses more on the process than the information obtained. Students need to uncover knowledge for themselves. When they uncover knowledge as opposed to being given knowledge they have a sense of ownership over their learning. The ownership allows the student to articulate the knowledge in their own words and deepen their understanding. The ownership creates motivation and then leads to skill development. The skills developed during the inquiry process give a student the ability to become a lifelong learner.

I believe using technology is an important demonstration of how to become a lifelong learner. I agree with opening the classroom to parents and students. I can open the classroom through technology. We live in a world where children are constantly motivated by what the internet can provide. If we give students the opportunity to demonstrate their learning through a structured teacher based website they can engage their parents as well. Learning occurs in many environments and when a child can bring the classroom with them, it will expanded the learning horizon.

I believe in the inclusive school and classroom. When a child can come to a classroom they are given the opportunity to be successful. Every child has the right to that opportunity. Classrooms have authentic communities and cultures and we can create communities and cultures of acceptance and empathy through inclusion. While definitions of success in the inclusive school will include various things for different people, creating a community of understanding and acceptance can be viewed as a foundational success. Through inclusion a child is given the opportunity to define their own success. I am privileged that everyday I witness the expansion of the word "success".