

Dr. Debra Miller

Philosophy Statement

I believe each and every student has the potential to bring something unique and special to the world. I will help my students develop their potential by believing in them as capable individuals. I will assist them in discovering who they are, so they can express their own opinions and nurture their own ideas. I have a vision of a world where people learn to respect, accept, and embrace the differences between us, as the core of what makes life so fascinating.

Every classroom presents a diverse community of learners that varies not only in abilities, but also in learning styles. My role as a teacher is to give my students the tools with which to cultivate their own wealth of knowledge. To accomplish this goal, I will teach to the needs of each student so that all learners can feel capable and successful. I truly believe this modeling will prepare my students for success in their classrooms. I will connect my instruction to the interests of my students and make learning relevant to life. I will incorporate themes, integrated units, projects, group work, individual work, and hands-on learning in order to help my students understand active learning. I will also tie learning into the world community to help my students become caring and active members of society.

I will allow my students to become responsible members of our classroom community by using strategies that promote risk-taking, collaboration, and communication. In showing students how to become responsible for themselves as well as their own learning, I am giving them the tools to become successful in life and to believe in themselves.

Teaching is a lifelong process of learning about new philosophies and new strategies, learning from students, colleagues, the community and especially learning from the children. Throughout my thirty-nine years in education, children have taught me to open my mind and my heart to the joys, the innocence, and the diversity of ideas in the world. Because of this, I will never forget how to smile with the new, cherish the old, and laugh with the children. 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. For myself, teaching provides an opportunity for continual learning and growth. One of my hopes as an educator is to instill a love of learning in my students, as I share my own passion for learning with them. It is my desire as an educator of future educators to help my students meet their fullest potential in these areas by providing an environment that is safe, supports risk-taking, and invites a sharing of ideas.