

Andrea A. Brew

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

As an educator of 15 years, I have had my share of successes and challenges. I credit the achievement of my students to fostering interpersonal relationships, establishing high expectations, and proper planning. I have found that the most effective instruction occurs when a deliberate connection has been made with a student. I firmly believe that to facilitate learning, it is necessary to foster an environment that extends beyond academics and focuses on social and moral elements of life. To create this environment, I am constantly working to build a trusting relationship and professional rapport with my students. I have found it necessary to identify the strengths and challenges of each child, their goals, hopes, and motivating forces. I instill in students the notion that character counts and is as essential to productive living as impressive scholastic skills.

In my library, the quote, “no one rises to low expectations” fuels my outlook on effective teaching and student learning. At the start of each year I concisely convey my expectations for students. This assurance of excellence continues daily through positive affirmations, goal setting and holding students accountable for the possibilities for which they are destined. My goal is to cultivate a culture of “I can, and I will”. I believe all students should be encouraged and expected to raise the bar, despite their demographics and background. In keeping with high expectations, I challenge students through rigorous learning activities that activate high levels of thinking and promote student exploration. I encourage them to use the skills and the will they possess to exceed the challenges set for them. I am certain that enlisting high expectations and communicating them with students, sets the stage for achievement.

Planning creates an environment conducive to learning. After two years in the classroom, I had the opportunity to attend a professional development presentation by Mark McLeod. This

presentation reminded me that failing to plan, is a plan to fail. Since then, I plan all library undertakings with the outcome in mind; this includes effective routines and procedures, delivery of instruction, and yearlong initiatives and incentives that will engage students. Using prior experience and knowledge, student data, professional development and the curriculum set forth for instruction, I envision the big picture and carefully map the path and strategies necessary to achieve academic successes. While I adhere to the plan, I know that I must also be flexible and accommodating when necessary.

I believe that educators are constantly learning. My teaching currently encompasses the growth and experiences I have had over the past 15 years. My teaching philosophy is simple, but I believe interpersonal relationships, establishing high expectations and proper planning are important components in creating the complete student. I look forward to future experiences that will help to refine my craft and my passion for teaching.