

# Philosophy of Teaching

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Successful classroom teachers work hard at combining their knowledge and dispositions of adolescents with knowledge of their specific class of students. This challenge provides the opportunity for teachers to establish professional relationships and build rapport with their students which, combined with appropriate classroom management procedures, results in meaningful teaching and learning for all.

To reach all students, a successful classroom teacher must create a nurturing environment that supports students multiple intelligences and is fostered by differentiated instruction. Teachers should utilize the Understanding by Design model to develop daily learning plans framed around big ideas and essential questions. Through the process, teachers can design interactive and challenging learning experiences that support learner diversity. Learning experiences should target critical thinking and evaluating evidence skills, assess student learning based on curricular goals and state academic standards, produce rigorous and relevant differentiated learning experiences, and promote self-directed learning and reflection. Developing opportunities for higher-order thinking and collaboration helps bring relevance to course curriculum, and it encourages civic action.

Connecting academic content with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills aligned to the National Technology Education Standards for Students ensures learning is interactive and multimedia-rich; allowing students to meaningfully “experience” social studies. Incorporating technology into reading and writing activities and other project-based assessments not only enhances literacy skills and content knowledge, but it also provides an opportunity to flatten the walls of the classroom. The development of students ethical and respectful minds are enhanced by communication and collaboration with learners from around the world.

The creation of well-organized, thoughtfully structured learning plans that allow for and encourage student inquiry will be most meaningful when they allow students to see relevance through simulations, real-life applications, and the integration of personal experiences. Using formative assessment, questioning and immediate feedback during the learning process will further reduce classroom distractions. It is my belief that if students are led through the process of education with a positive role-model and encouraged to take academic risks, they will be molded into informed global citizens and life-long learners.