

## Rachel Friesenhahn's Philosophy of Education

- I. Thesis Statement (Why is teaching important to you?): Teaching is important to me because it provides the opportunity to help students grow and to recognize their full potential, not only academically, but as a person as well. I believe that by inspiring, encouraging, and building relationships with each student, I can leave a positive, lasting impact that will stay with them through their lifetime.
  
- II. My aspirations, goals and objectives as a teacher and my goals for my students are:
  - A. What is my role as a teacher?
    - Encourage students to reach their full potential and achieve their goals
    - Provide a safe and welcoming environment and offer them support
    - Identify the needs of each student, and help them accordingly
    - To effectively teach the curriculum as well as life skills, such as becoming leaders
    - Get to know and build relationships with each individual
    - Make learning as fun as possible
  - B. What is the student's role in education?
    - To do their best to understand and complete assignments
    - Show respect to the teacher and classmates
    - Show their readiness to learn with a positive attitude
    - Be prepared and motivated in class
  
- III. Methods I will consider to reach these goals and objectives include:
  - A. How will I choose curriculum and teaching strategies?
    - I will teach all of the necessary TEKS through fun activities and games that will help them to understand and remember the material
    - I will use learning strategies that I have learned through experience and observation from my internship that seem to be the most effective
  - B. What classroom management strategies will be used?
    - At the beginning of the year I will establish the boundaries, behavior, and respect that needs to be shown in the classroom, both verbally and through a written contract
    - I will make a seating chart to help manage the class easier
    - If a behavioral problem occurs, I would first give a verbal reminder
    - If the problem continues, I would talk with them individually to discuss what behavior is acceptable
    - If the issue worsens, I would contact the parents, or principal in extreme cases
  - C. How will I accommodate students' individualized needs (i.e. disabilities, at-risk, 504, limited English, apathetic, etc.)
    - I can use a variety of teaching styles

- I will make sure to communicate with each student, starting at the beginning of the year, any concerns they may have
- I will follow the required accommodations and keep their needs in mind while addressing them

IV. How will I assess student understanding?

A. How will I assess student understanding of materials?

- Make sure to ask questions and have students explain practice problems to the class as we go along the lesson
- Give small review quizzes through games, such as Kahoot, Quizzizz, or using whiteboards
- Assign them quizzes, tests, and projects periodically throughout the year

B. How will I prepare students for various standardized tests such as SAT, ACT, STAAR, etc.?

- Give them short practice tests or games during the year
- Do my best to make the standardized test curriculum a priority in what I teach
- Provide review time before the standardized test and give test-taking tips

V. How will I improve my teaching?

A. How can I serve all students well?

- Teach them life skills to help them outside of school as well
- Be patient with my students, knowing their accommodations and how they learn best
- Give them brain breaks to help keep them focused and awake
- I will make sure to build relationships with my students and also support them on their lives outside of school
- I will always do my best to have an positive and energized attitude in the classroom

B. What should students expect of me as a teacher?

- They should know that I am understanding and willing to help
- They can expect me to be fun and encouraging, but also have discipline
- They should expect me to get to know them
- They should expect me to be fair to each student

VI. Are there any other considerations for which I want to call attention?

A. What qualities are important for me to possess as a teacher (think of the “hats”)?

- Patient
- Kind
- Compassionate
- Encouraging
- Calm
- Fun

B. What is the role of “the school” in society?

- The role of school is to prepare students for their future by providing them with the knowledge, social skills, and life skills necessary to pursue higher levels of education and a career

C. What does learning mean to me?

- To me learning means comprehending knowledge through experience, personal understanding, and being taught by someone else.

D. What is your “soap box” issue for which you have great passion?

- I have great passion about showing respect to others despite differences you may have. In education, there are lots of children who have a lack of respect, are demanding, think they have entitlement, or talk back to adults. I think it is very important to establish and emphasize respect and what that truly looks like in a classroom from the beginning of the year. It will make classes bond and grow, and it will also help them later in life as well.