

Dean Vendramin's Philosophy of Education Statement

I believe that education should nurture one's mind, body, and spirit. We should be fostering the love of learning in each individual student and treating one another with the dignity and respect we all deserve. Education is also life long and not restricted to the walls of a classroom. Everyone should be encouraged to live up to their potential, be proud of their God given talents, and always try to do the best they can. I also feel a strong dedication to encourage one to develop 21st Century learning skills, to embrace technology as a powerful learning tool and understand the challenges that may come as a result. I see technology as a tool to differentiate, motivate, and redefine learning in the classroom. Meeting and exceeding curriculum outcomes are a must, but through the use of technology it is hoped that students will develop higher levels of critical thinking, engagement, collaboration, and comprehension. Modelling and promoting positive digital citizenship conduct is important when considerations in today's classroom. Sometimes using technology involves risk taking and experiential learning, both which I feel are also important in today's learning environment. Although technology is an important tool, I feel success of the classroom depends on having an engaged, motivated, and knowledgeable facilitator with strong classroom management, a passion for teaching, and a love for students. I feel that education is the key to understanding our past, taking control of the present, and creating a brighter future.

These are the pillars I believe in that need to be in place to construct a solid foundation for learning:

L – Listen/Leadership

- I believe that successful education of youth requires for an educator to have the capacity to listen and make the effort to understand their students. The sharing of ideas is a key component of the learning process.
- Educators must also lead their students by example, thus providing the students strong models to pattern themselves after. Such as being prepared to teach and being on time. Sound guidance from educators is a major foundation for socially acceptable behaviour.

E – Environment/Ethics

- Students must be educated in an environment that is safe, comfortable, respectful, and free from bias or judgment. Without a secure environment, students' learning will be limited.
- Educators must have a solid code of ethics that they live life by so as not to abuse their power over students and to continue to be positive role models for their students. A positive moral code will facilitate a more efficient learning process.

A – Atmosphere/Accommodation

- I believe that an atmosphere of acceptance, genuineness, empathy and overall approachability are keys to a positive learning experience. This is created by an educator who is passionate about what they do and continue to improve on all aspects of their teaching abilities.
- It is important to me that accommodation in all schools and classrooms are made whenever possible in order for every student to meet their full potential. There are many studies available that prove that people learn in different ways and education must recognize and help enable each student's learning potential. Differences in student ability should be looked at as challenges and opportunities rather than disruptions.

R – Respect/Responsibility

- In order to facilitate a positive learning environment, the educator must display as well as advocate an environment of mutual respect. Respect cannot be demanded it must be practiced and earned. It is important that students are taught to accept differences in values, religions, cultural heritages, lifestyles, and different levels of physical and intellectual functioning.
- In the school environment, it is my belief that all students, as well as educators, should be held responsible for their actions. With the right to an education comes the responsibility to carry oneself with high degree moral and ethical values. Responsibility is a crucial factor towards becoming a functional, independent, adult member of society.

N – Nature/Nurture

- The natural tendencies of youth, such as curiosity, creativity and imagination, should be encouraged as much and as long as possible in the education system. Recent curriculum developments in curriculum focus on inquiry and this reflects the natural way in which people learn.
- Students should be nurtured and supported to grow up to be accepted and established members of their community (i.e. home, school, work, etc.). Also a love of learning should also be nurtured to ensure the continued success of each child and those after them.

The ability to learn about oneself and the world around them is a gift that education can offer. Educators must realize that each child has the potential to learn and be a productive contributing member to society. Education must reach out to each child and it is the duty of those who educate children to ensure that they are able to learn.

