

## Philosophy of Teaching

During my five years of teaching, my philosophy of teaching has changed dramatically. I incorporate two thoughts about learning in my daily teaching. The first is to strive to be a lifelong learner. By this, students should feel free to learn about what interests them. When students have questions about the subject we are studying, real learning is taking shape. By the students questioning, you are peaking their interest and they want to strive to learn more about the topic at hand. Students who have a peaked interested in something will be lifelong learners. They will carry this desire through their entire careers at school and in the real world. Learning does not stop when we graduate.

The second thought about learning that I possess is that we, as teachers, should be teaching for mastery of a subject, not simply covering the material. So many teachers in today's world teach to just cover the material. Most students do not learn this way. Once you cover a subject, the students likely will not remember the information a week later, much less when it is time for state testing. My philosophy is to teach the skills until they master them. That way they actually learn it for themselves. This takes numerous repetitions on the same topic incorporated into various styles and places. What students are learning in math, for example, will be seen several times in various places during math as well as in other subject areas. I do not move on from a topic until 80% of my students master the skill. This can be time consuming, but the students will completely know what they know now and in the months to come.

Living and working by these two philosophies has had great benefits in my classroom. The biggest success has been that each child that walks through my classroom door leaves it at the end of the year having gained worthwhile knowledge.