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Foundations I

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### **Multimedia Philosophy**

“Do not train a child to learn by force or harshness; but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each.” - *Plato*

Teaching is an opportunity to inspire and empower students to learn. My goal as a teacher is to enhance student's knowledge by motivating them to learn. I truly enjoy learning and I want my students to enjoy it as well. I believe that there is a direct correlation between teaching and learning. In order to become a skilled teacher, one must also be a good learner. Part of being a good learner is the understanding that there are skills involved in helping people learn. Motivation is a vital part of learning. Another important aspect of teaching is to present information to students in an organized manner while adapting to the needs of individual students, who each have multiple intelligences. By organizing your classroom and setting clear instructional objectives it not only helps to determine what is to be taught and learned but it also will help to show how it will be taught and learned. Lastly, I feel that it is important to incorporate technology in the classroom by providing hands-on, project-based relevant activities. I

believe that technology in the classroom serves two purposes. First, it will help to motivate students. Introducing exciting and creative methods of learning while providing hands-on projects are a great way to keep students excited about the learning process. Second, students being introduced to technology will only prove to be beneficial to them later on in life, no matter where life should take them.

Did you ever notice how inquisitive and curious infants and small children are? They are constantly exploring their environment. I think this is a time when a person's desire to learn is at its greatest. But, as time progresses, it seems the passion for learning decreases. At some point, children begin to view learning as a chore instead of enjoyment or satisfaction. Students see learning as homework assignments, tests or long boring lectures. I feel that the foundation for any learning environment is motivation. In order to inspire the student's desire to learn, we as teachers can use various techniques in the classroom to create meaningful assignments and a variety of activities to keep students interested in learning new things. And, at the same time, it is important to get feedback from the students, provide them with positive reinforcement. Keeping things on a more positive note can only create a more constructive setting for students to learn in.

People learn in many different ways. Howard Gardner, a professor and theorist from Harvard University, proposed seven different forms of

intelligence: linguistic, musical, logical-mathematical, spatial, body-kinesthetic, intrapersonal, and interpersonal. In a classroom, it is important to adapt to the needs of the student based on their various form of intelligence. Create a comfortable environment for students to work in. Each teacher's personalities and styles of teaching vary. Classroom management is so important when it comes to learning. I feel that setting clear and concise procedures allow for a calm setting for students to learn. Students can then know what is expected of them.

The ideal classroom should, at the same time, be lively and interactive. From my personal experience, I find that I learn best from teachers who use their creativity to keep each class exciting. Students should feel that they are part of the learning process and not just being lectured to or memorizing information. As a hands-on constructivist teacher, I want to pose questions and encourage critical thinking skills that will help students learn for years. According to Jerome Bruner "Learning is an active process in which learners construct new ideas or concepts based upon their current/past knowledge."

In my experience students learn best when multiple strategies of teaching are used. Technology can be used to foster instruction and learning by allowing students to use multiple senses (i.e. audio and visual.) The possibilities are endless. Technology allows for hands-on project-based activities in all different subject areas. In Michael M. Grant's article,

“Getting a Grip on Project-Based Learning,” Grant states that “learners are more autonomous as they construct personally-meaningful artifacts that are representations of their learning. Technology can be useful in creating such artifacts. I look forward to learning ways in which technology can be used to help students in all the different subject areas. Using technology across the curriculum will also help to encourage students to become self-sufficient and introduces them to skills that they will need throughout their development.

In today’s world, I don’t think there is a field of work that doesn’t incorporate technology to some degree. Students will only benefit from having been exposed to technology right from the start. From my experience running a Computer Learning Center, you can absolutely see the difference in an intimidation factor between adults/seniors who never worked with computers before verses a child who feels more comfortable. Our adults are afraid to some extent and the children, some as young as 4 years old, appear to be curious and fearless in working with computers. Technology has become an ever-growing essential area of study for students of all ages. As teachers, I think we will never stop learning. It is important for teachers to stay up to date with the current technology. It is essential for teachers to stay in touch with the popular trends in technology so that they may relate to the students.

As I see it, teaching is an opportunity for someone to become a role model. I am looking forward to sharing what I have learned with students. I hope to someday combine my educational background in Elementary Education and my professional experience as a Technology Coordinator to become a teacher and role model for my students. I would like to put the ideals I discussed earlier into practice. My view of an ideal classroom would be one in which students are using technology across the curriculum. It would be an organized setting with set rules and guidelines. I would elicit feedback from students, create concise objectives while keeping each lesson as creative as possible and motivate the students to learn.

## *Works Cited*

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