Philosophy of Education

Teachers all have unique characteristics and teaching methods. However, the teachers who truly make a memorable impact on their students’ lives are those who put their students above all else. The three most essential qualities of a teacher are: being understanding, being a provider, and being willing and eager to grow. Proficient teachers may understand the needs of their students, but excellent teachers not only understand their students, but also provide the students with compassion and opportunities, and are willing to grow and learn from their own mistakes.

First, being understanding in the classroom will enable teachers to relate to their students on a more individualized level, and will also help them to determine the most suitable circumstances for each student’s learning process. Not every student will have the same goals in the classroom or learn the same way. Understanding a student’s actions and habits will help the teacher to detect problems or complications the student may be experiencing. It is absolutely pertinent that teachers treat all students equitably, with the same respect that teachers themselves expect.

Teachers should also be providers, rather than lecturers, to their students. I truly feel that teachers are not to simply give students answers, but rather to hand them the tools necessary to find their own answers. Teachers are the key component in aiding their students to finding their own path to success. “*A teacher’s purpose is not to create students in his own image, but to develop students who can create their own image*.” (Anonymous) Teachers should provide the tools and resources that can further students’ paths of knowledge. Other than offering resources, providing care and empathy can be just as essential. Providing strength, encouragement, and inspiration will make a huge difference. Students need someone to look up to and rely on, and I want to be the person to play that role. The strongest resource an excellent teacher can offer is an open hand.

Last, teachers should encompass a willingness to grow. It is important to be able to learn from one’s own mistakes and improve in the future. Teachers should be able to see that they too may make mistakes and will not know all of the answers all of the time. Students will suggest new ideas and strategies that could actually improve the class’ success. An excellent teacher will take positive and negative feedback with an open mind and work to grow as his/her career progresses.

Anyone can be a leader and a decent teacher with a little bit of work and dedication; however, not everyone is cut out to be an excellent teacher. As a teacher, I exhibit all of the necessary qualities to better myself, the students, the classroom and curriculum, and the future. This incredible feat requires understanding, the ability to be a provider to the students, and willingness to grow as a person and role model. Each of the qualities listed above is an important piece of the puzzle that makes up an excellent teacher.