

Sarah Kobes' Teaching Philosophy

I believe that creating a positive relationship with each student helps to build an environment where each child can develop as an active learner. By fostering an individual relationship with each student built upon trust and respect, I hope to create a classroom community where students feel valued and comfortable taking risks while actively learning. I plan to accomplish this by involving students in developing classroom expectations so they will have ownership in the behavioral guidelines. Then, when projects involving collaborative group work are assigned, I will not only model, but also support cooperative relationships between students. When relationships have been established, students feel more comfortable seeking help or confirmation, which helps to minimize misconceptions. I believe that relationships are the gateway through which I can provide encouragement, guide learning, and utilize engaging tools and resources.

By encouraging and celebrating independence and creativity, students learn to take risks with their ideas and grow confident in themselves as learners and individuals. I believe this to be one of the most valuable things to inspire in children. I am sensitive to students' need to feel safe in their learning environment. One way I make my support evident to students is by acknowledging the risks students take when sharing an idea with peers.

By intriguing curiosity through the use of captivating materials, I promote a natural passion to discover. This can be accomplished by providing resources and activities at various student levels to allow each student to feel successful. When hands-on learning experiences are not available, I can bring primary resources to enhance learning. These experiences inspire interests, questions, and deeper understanding that lead to higher level thinking, especially when combined with teacher guidance.

Students learn through observation and participation. When I model assignments and concepts, students are able to see the expectations. Once students have that frame of reference, they can creatively tackle problems on their own or with guidance from a peer or me. Through repeated exposure, students build confidence in the concepts and are able to apply their knowledge.

My goal is for students to enjoy learning, believe in their abilities, and learn from their discoveries. By building individual relationships with each student, I encourage students to celebrate their ability to learn and develop as a unique individual.