

I believe that the fundamental goal of being a teacher is to encourage and facilitate learning, and this is especially important in an inclusive classroom. Learning takes place in different circumstances and contexts. Although I believe that all students are capable of learning, I also believe that a student needs to be willing to learn. The classroom environment can encourage or discourage learning for each individual student so ensuring that the classroom facilitates learning is important.

Since I see myself as more of a Constructivist method teacher, and as a proponent of inclusive teaching, it is important that the classroom atmosphere allows students to explore and discover on their own while I facilitate by setting clear objectives for the students. In addition, I will accommodate the other learning styles of my students to ensure that all share a classroom atmosphere that is conducive to learning. Since students take many of their learning cues from the teacher, a teacher who does not show an interest in the subject and a passion for learning will have students who are less likely to put forth the effort to learn in that class. Loving technology and trying to be at the forefront of digital technology myself, I will constantly try to incorporate and model various digital technologies in my classroom. Using various and appropriate technologies in an inclusive classroom will aid my students in learning and allow them to be on a more “level playing field”. Additionally, the use of technology will help us experience knowledge, construct new meanings, and better prepare the students for the technology driven world they will be entering when they are finished with their formal schooling.

I believe that my role as a teacher is important in today’s society since I have knowledge and a passion that I want to share. I plan to encourage learning for all by creating an engaging, relaxed, and stimulating environment for students to learn about the concepts being presented. I, hopefully, will present the material in a way that makes it easy to understand while at the same

Brian Lewandowski
Teaching Philosophy

time relating it to real world applications. In addition to demonstrating competence in the subject matter that I am teaching, I will also be compassionate and approachable. I feel that one of the ways that I can accomplish this is by communicating with my students without talking down to them.

Finally, I believe that teaching in an inclusive classroom will provide me the opportunity to teach my students about the importance of respect. I believe respect for my students is one of the most important things I can have in my classroom – not only so that they respect me but also to teach and inspire them to respect each other as well. The inclusive classroom will not only help the non-traditional learners but also the traditional learners by exposing them to different teaching/learning strategies while also teaching them to become more accepting of others and their individual differences.

One of the most important concepts I hope to instill in my students is that learning is a never-ending process. This concept not only applies to my students but it also applies to myself as well. As I continue to learn more about my subject area and continue to develop professionally as an educator, my ability to connect with my students will continue to grow. As I continue my journey through student teaching and become a professional teacher, I am hoping to gain greater confidence and comfort being in front of students, but this is something that will only come with time, practice, and experience. To accomplish my goal of continuous professional growth, I plan on observing other teachers, attending workshops and conferences, “Beg, Borrow and Steal” (when appropriate), and undergoing self-reflection. I take the responsibility of being a teacher very seriously, and I will strive to continually improve myself, enhance my skills, and work hard for my students’ success.