

Existing in music, structures, space, the universe, philosophical thought, and all aspects of life, mathematics is an integral part of our existence. It is my job as a teacher to get my students just as involved and enthusiastic about mathematics and its importance as I am.

Rather than the destination, school is about the personal growth and journey of the students in understanding both themselves and the world around them. Education is about real life experiences, as well as finding out and strengthening who you are as a learner and a person, not about conforming to what society views as the 'correct' type of learner. Students should be taught to question the world around them rather than passively accepting what they are told to be true. Our current education system governmentally promotes conformed, standardized schooling, not learning. Though these are currently our parameters to teach under, that doesn't mean we can't meet the same requirements in a different way. Students need to think about the why and the how behind the what. Ultimately, if we teach students to learn by exercising philosophical and creative parts of the brain, rather than teaching them how to 'school' and do well on a test, scores will improve and our society will be stronger as a result of producing more passionate learners. If students learn nothing else from me, they must learn how to think critically and use their prior knowledge to push through life's obstacles as they would a math problem. Never giving up, but realizing there are multiple ways to go about solving a problem based on who they are by using their prior knowledge to solve something completely new to them. As a teacher, my job is to teach students to think critically and learn for the sake of learning, rather than for the end result.

Every student has a different brain and different strengths, so I will adhere to as many different learning styles as I can and let my students learn in the way they learn best by playing off of their strengths rather than focusing on their weaknesses. Everyone is their own interpreter, so students need to be taught that there are multiple ways to get to the same result depending on the type of person and learner they are, and in doing so, students will also learn from the different perspectives of their peers. I will do my best to incorporate the arts into my lessons, as well as setting up a classroom that invites all learning styles and personalities. In my classroom, I will not be the center of attention; I want my classroom to be full of students working and collaborating, which allows them to learn in the way that they learn best, giving every type of learner an opportunity for success.

Your mind determines your actions; therefore, if you think you can succeed, you will. As a teacher, it is my job to foster a positive, open-minded, non-judgmental learning environment that provides an opportunity to turn students' negative thoughts on themselves and the concepts to more positive ones. Students need to change their mindset from "I can't do this, I give up" to "what do I already know that could help with this? How can I think about this differently?". This will not only help with their success in class, but also with problem solving in general further in life.

I want my students to know I am there for them, period. I will do everything in my power to help them inside and outside of the classroom. Not everyone is fortunate enough to have school as their top priority; there are many outside factors that can affect your performance, so it is my job as a teacher to become an advocate for my students. If they are not performing well in class, it is up to me to find out

why and let them know that if they need me, I will do everything in my power to help. I believe every student is capable of success and should be held to positive expectations. If those expectations are not being met or the student is not succeeding, there is something I am not doing or something I need to do better in order to reach that student's needs and put them on the pathway to success.