

## **Frame of Reference**

I believe the purpose of education is to enable individuals to develop physical, mental and social skills in order to challenge the world with critical thinking, curiosity and natural ability. Educating our students will help support the development of skills and talents they already possess through a variety of strategies that work best for that individual.

As a future educator, the most important aspect of teaching is building connections with students and learning about their diverse learning abilities in order to meet their needs in the classroom. This becomes the foundation in creating a positive classroom environment built on safety, trust, care, and guides students to reach their goals. I want students to feel as excited to learn as I am passionate to teach, and hope my enthusiasm and interest in what I am teaching projects onto my students and sparks their interest.

Everyone should be treated with respect and dignity in a school setting, so there will be absolutely no bullying tolerated in my classroom. Open communication with students and parents, combined with strong classroom management strategies, are ways I plan on achieving this, so building strong school-based relationships with my students and their parents is crucial. I believe every student has a place in my classroom. Each student has a special quality or attribute that contributes greatly to the dynamics of the class.

My classroom will welcome parents and guests and all members of the school with an open mind and an open heart. Parental involvement in their child's education is greatly encouraged, so open communication and flexibility on my behalf will make this possible.

The physical classroom contributes to student success, so thoughtful consideration of space, seating arrangements, natural light, and organization of materials will be carefully considered. I also believe an inclusive classroom will enable students of all abilities to stay productive and increase positive work ethic, as well as strengthen social developmental skills.

Understanding that students work at many different levels and have varying abilities, I will be open to incorporating a variety of diagnostic, formative and summative assessment strategies and tools in order to benefit the needs of all students. Throughout the early weeks of practicum experience will determine how I plan to assess the students based on Learning intentions and outcomes set forth by the curriculum. Diagnostic assessment strategies will be used at the beginning of activities and lessons, as accessing prior knowledge will help me gauge where my students are at academically, and informs me on what I should be covering and focusing on to help students reach their potential. Formative assessment strategies will be ongoing, and used daily through oral anecdotal feedback and asking relevant questions pertaining to what we are learning. Using a variety of tools such as criteria, setting learning intentions, asking questions, creating rubrics and using simple "thumbs up" gestures will make me aware of student growth through what I have been teaching, and will help me gauge the types of summative assessment strategies to use in order to see if students have met learning outcomes. Implementation of final projects and assignments throughout my six week practicum will be pivotal.

I also have an open mind when it comes to technology in the classroom, and hope to incorporate more assistive technology and software into some of my lessons to spark interest, support individual learning, and engage student learners.

School is an integral part of society, which directly impacts students, so being a professional is pivotal in keeping a dignified rapport within the students, staff and school community. This will be achieved by following standards and ethics pertaining to the profession, as well as becoming a positive role model to students of all ages.

The school community is a true team, held together by educators, colleagues, parents and other key members working together to make the school a better place for learning. I think it is important to be an active member of the school community as I will not only learn more about the staff, students and other members of the school, but I will also learn first-hand what being part of the team feels like and what it is like to take action and be open and flexible to any opportunity that presents itself. Whether it be through extra-curricular activities, school field trips, assemblies, ceremonies, fundraisers or meetings, I will assure I am dedicated in contributing to the profession.