**Teaching Philosophy**

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As a teacher, I believe that I have an important role in my students’ lives. I want my students’ experiences in my classroom to be as meaningful as possible. My goal is to teach and do everything in love and kindness. I do not know what my students may be going through, but I want to be there for them to encourage them and to support them in every way I can along the way. I want everything that will happen in my classroom to be positive and something that my students can carry with them as they move forward in their lives. Teaching to me means making a difference in my students’ lives.

I know that students will come from different backgrounds, and they will come with diverse identities, skillsets, talents, and learning styles. I want my students to feel as though they belong in my classroom. Building genuine relationships with students is a crucial aspect of this. Building strong relationships with my students develops reciprocal trust between myself and my students, which promotes a positive learning environment. I believe that this includes listening to their needs and concerns. Listening to the needs of students demonstrates that we care about their wellbeing. I believe that each student is capable of learning. Students need to know that we believe in them and that we want them to succeed in all that they do. Students need to feel empowered so that they can take ownership over their own learning. I will celebrate small successes with them throughout their learning journey and I will do my best to help them improve in areas they need to improve in to move forward. My students will have various needs as learners and I will be flexible to make adaptations for them.

As a teacher of color, I know the importance of diverse representations in the classroom. I believe that celebrating diversity is very important. I always felt like students of color, like myself, were underrepresented in my classrooms, growing up. I did not see myself in the books that we read as a class, in the videos that we watched, and in the discussions, that we had. I believe that in order for students to strive forward in their learning journey, they need to feel that they are a part of society and they need to feel as though they are not “different”. Often times, what students do not see in books in the classroom also teaches them about who matters and who does not matter in society. Ensuring that my students see themselves and their identities in all of the resources that I use in the classroom is very important to me. I believe that as teachers, we are to challenge cultural norms. Furthermore, as a teacher of color, I hope for my students to see me as a role model.

Working toward reconciliation is a lifelong journey. I believe that I still have a lot more learning to do and that learning will never stop. I will continue to learn about Treaties, Indigenous cultures and histories and about Truth and Reconciliation. As an immigrant settler and as a Treaty person, it is important that I recognize that I share the land with other treaty people and that I benefit from the Treaties. Therefore, I have a critical role in educating myself, my students, and others around me. I believe that moving towards reconciling the broken relationship between Canada and Indigenous peoples must begin in myself as a teacher and in the classroom by educating my students about it.

Teaching means giving my students a reason to want to come to school and getting them excited to learn each day. Learning does not only take place in the classroom as students take what they have learned and carry them home with them and out in the real world. Teaching is making every effort to make each day matter because I believe that every student matters. It is important that students feel loved and cared for. I want my students to know that they are valued members of society. For me, teaching is helping my students succeed to the best I can.