

Personal Educational Philosophy Statement

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” -Nelson Mandela, speech at Madison Park High School, Boston, 23 June 1990.

To me, this quote means that education is much more than just teaching students reading, writing, and math. The purpose of education should be to give students the cognitive tools needed for lifelong learning. Education should foster empathy, enabling students to look at the world through diverse perspectives and engage with others respectfully even amidst disagreement. Education should help students discover their unique passions and giftings and how they can use them to contribute to the creation of a more equitable, inclusive, just, and sustainable society for all people. Beyond teaching literacy and numeracy skills, education should develop students’ critical thinking and meta-cognitive skills. One way that I will implement this philosophy in any classroom is by creating a class agreement that will create a safe and open-minded environment where all perspectives and voices are valued and where learning and growth is the ultimate goal. At the beginning of the school year, the class will collectively brainstorm guidelines for respectful interactions, teacher-student relationships, and self-reflection. These guidelines will be written on chart paper and all students will sign it as a commitment to respectful relations, open-mindedness, and willingness to be reflective and to challenge assumptions. The agreement will then be posted in the classroom as a reminder of the commitment we have each made to creating a safe and respectful learning environment for everyone.