Maci Abrahamson

Philosophy

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Teachers need to go above and beyond just teaching the content in their respective area. Each subject provides information that students will need for their whole life. Teaching this content well is the first responsibility of a teacher. As a teacher, I want to go above and beyond teaching the basic subjects. Education is more than just learning the basics, but teaching students skills that will help them apply their knowledge as well as skills needed for everyday life. I believe that education needs to be focused on preparing the whole student by teaching strong content knowledge, non-cognitive skills, and current events of the world in preparation to be successful adults in the future whether the students move onto college or the workforce. It will be a challenging task, but the reward will be great when prior students are seen as responsible, productive citizens.

Creating well rounded students is a task that takes the whole educational career to complete with the collaboration and help from many teachers. Each teacher plays a part in preparing the student for the future. I believe that my part in this preparation will be giving the student strong content in Social Studies and History. Geography is something used or thought about daily. Students need to understand how a map works or how the weather changes. This is content that is necessary for students to know and it will be used their whole lives. Economics can be helpful when it comes to money. Students can understand how supply and demand affect prices, so they can understand why produce prices are rising. These are subjects that can be used every day in different situations. Students need to take Political Science classes to understand how our government works. Having strong content knowledge of how the government functions can lead to being productive citizens. Learning how to vote in a simple thing taught in these classes that is needed throughout a student’s life. Political Science class teaches students what their rights are and what their responsibilities are. This is important information for any citizen to know and students should learn this in school. All of these subjects in Social Studies will help students in the future whether they continue their education or join the work force. Having strong content knowledge is the main concern of teachers and I will do my best to teach this information to students.

 If, as educators, we send students out of high school with just knowledge about the few subject areas, we have failed them. Important skills such as time management, social skills, manners, and other non-cognitive skills are crucial for success in school and after high school. As a teacher, I can teach non-cognitive skills along with the content. Giving homework assignments develops time management. Doing group projects develops social skills. There are activities that I can assign every day in class that can help build non-cognitive skills. These are skills that are often included in education, but not pointed to directly. Most teachers tell their students to manage their time well or use manners, but no instructional time is given on how to do these things. I will spend more time instructing certain skills so students are proficient in them by the time they move on from high school. By teaching these skills, we are creating well rounded students who not only know have strong content knowledge, but also have skills that will be needed in future jobs.

 One additional way that I plan on helping students become well rounded individuals that are ready for the future whether it be college or the workforce is to make them knowledgeable on current events and issues nationally and locally. I believe it is important for students to know what is going on around them. Students can end up blindsided by issues that can impact them if they have no knowledge of what is going on. Students may take positions on current issues and need to know how to politely discuss the issue at hand. By introducing student to current issues, they can also begin to decide what they stand for in politics and other issues.

 I believe that the goal of the education system should be to create well rounded students who are prepared for the future. This can be accomplished by providing strong content knowledge, teaching non-cognitive skills, and keeping students up to date on current events and how those events may affect them. In order to complete this I will go above and beyond just teaching the content in the area of Social Studies, but teaching students other skills they will use for the rest of their lives.