

According to our text, “philosophy is a search for wisdom...a study of theories of knowledge, truth, existence and morality”. In a sense the creed that we live by, the standards to which we hold ourselves accountable. A philosophy of education is the building block upon which we formulate our approach to teaching in the classroom and the reasoning, the logic behind it. It will have a significant impact not only on our strategies and performance as teachers, but on our confidence and ultimately our success as well. It is *the* foundation.

“A theory is a set of related principles that are based on observation and are used to explain the world around us.” Philosophies are formed based on what we derive from theories, explanations, and reasonings. Theories are rooted in principle, philosophy is the ideology we adhere to and by which we conduct ourselves in our lives.

There are aspects of each of the teaching philosophies given in our text that I can identify with and that I believe are relevant, but no one more than another. My results were as follows:

Perennialism-13

Essentialism-15

Progressivism-15

Social Reconstructionism-13

I feel in a way that this makes me come across as wishy-washy, that I can't make up my mind. But I believe there is truth to facets of each one. I am accepting and tolerant of the differences that exist because it is through the adversity we overcome from the challenges we face that we learn. I think schooling is for the fundamental purpose of educating children so they are able to grow not only in knowledge, but to grow as human beings, and to be able to do that in a safe, positive, nurturing environment. I believe basic instruction is essential because children are so easily influenced. They need structure in order to develop the interpersonal and decision making skills life demands. How can we expect them to make wise choices without them being made aware of *how* to do that?

I believe that as a teacher it would be my responsibility to “pass knowledge on to students”. Isn't that what being a teacher means? Is that not their job? It is through the knowledge that we provide that we are able to guide them. Children are always asking “Why?”. Teachers are obligated to provide knowledge so their students are ultimately able to answer that important question on their own, and feel confident in their ability to do so.

Insofar as motivation, I think part of that is an innate characteristic. I remember growing up and being aware of very tangible differences between my two older sisters and myself, between classmates and myself, even as young as Kindergarten. My oldest sister and I always loved going to school whereas my middle sister did not. We were all raised in the same home, went to the same school, had the same teachers, and were taught the same things. Why would Debra not like school? I do think her teachers tried, albeit unsuccessfully, to motivate her, but I don't think her 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, little Sr. Ernestine, is to blame for that. There are too many variables involved and too many open ended questions that cannot be answered regarding a child's attitude toward school. There are so

many influences in life, and children are like sponges and absorb them all. It is important to push children and encourage them to strive to be the best they can be, but to a point. You need to know when you aren't making a difference and accept it. I am not saying to give up, but some students may require something that you may not be able to give them. Not all people are able to relate to one another. To continue would be detrimental to the student and teacher. To realize a change needed to be made would be wise.

Not only should teachers be committed to educate, but also to challenge and inspire their students. Make them want to know. Make learning interesting. Make it fun. Structure is fundamental so they know not only what to expect, but what is expected from them. Teachers should provide support and encourage children to think on their own. For them to grow up to be good, decent, functioning members of society, a foundation is so very relevant so that they are able to form their own theories and philosophies of life. Educators are the providers of this foundation, and the example they set is crucial in children's lives.