

Lisa Rossi's Teaching Philosophy

My personal teaching philosophy revolves around a humanistic approach to education. Being flexible as a teacher, building mutual respect and designing a cooperative learning environment will lead to successful learning among the second graders in Room 201.

Designing a Cooperative Learning Environment -- I design a classroom where every child can, and will, learn. I do not want to be the "fountain" of all knowledge, but rather a "creator" of learning opportunities to gain knowledge. My classroom environment is one where students can share, question, inquire and comment, all the while bringing their own knowledge and experiences to the classroom and the class work.

In the classroom, I work toward establishing a comfortable atmosphere for the students and myself because I believe that this atmosphere enhances the learning experience and success of the students. Students in my classroom work together to help gain perspectives and think critically about lessons and the curriculum. They learn from each other and with each other, and are accountable for their individual learning and as a group. This type of "community" allows for mutual and individual learning and evaluates the individual and shared progress that students make during the school year. By building this environment, I help students develop the social and cooperative skills that are essential for success in our ever-changing society.

Promoting Culture and Personal Diversity -- Multicultural-centered pedagogy is the best way to teach students in California. I help students accept and appreciate cultural diversity in order to master basic knowledge and obtain intellectual, social and personal excellence. I believe in affirming the diversity of my students. We all have stories, backgrounds and traditions, which, when woven together with respect, create a harmonious classroom community. The idea that each person brings to the classroom an immeasurable amount of material is paramount to the functioning of my classroom. As a teacher, I invest a great deal of time on inviting students to share their "stories" to promote mutual respect and celebrate our differences.

Being a Flexible Teacher -- I believe that a teacher needs to be as flexible as possible, because every individual and every group of students is different. It is my responsibility to figure out different students' approaches to learning. I believe a good teacher is open minded about each students' needs and background and adjusts their teaching styles accordingly, applying different methods that use different types of learning capacities to help each student achieve academically, emotionally and mentally.

Designing Engaging and Motivating Curriculum -- It is a teacher's responsibility to follow state-mandated curriculum and framework. But I believe that a true educational setting uses those mandates to build open, honest and socially constructive and critical curriculum. This culturally relevant teaching allows teachers and students to learn outside of the box and break the status quo of learning.

Being a Community-based Educator -- I believe that a teacher must work with students outside of the classroom to help them achieve set class goals, personal goals and emotional goals. Teachers need to be open to his/her students, parents and community at all times. I am available by phone at any time. I am also a teacher who engages herself in her students extra-curricular and/or community activities. Showing support outside of the classroom is just as important as showing support inside the classroom.

Working Collaboratively with Other Teachers -- In order to be a successful and engaging teacher, I am a part of a supporting teaching community. I am a teacher who works collaboratively with other teachers and administrators, exchanging ideas, discussing pedagogy, curriculum and theory, and sharing the joy and pains of teaching. Collaboration and teamwork help establish a positive school community.

I bring a passion for teaching and learning to my classroom each day. I want my students to leave my classroom with a sense of integrity and pride in who they are, and who they have the capability of becoming. I am committed towards being a positive influence on the lives of children.