

## **Philosophy of Education**

Sean Howard

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I've always loved learning, especially when it feels like solving a puzzle. That's one of the reasons mathematics has always been my favorite subject. It challenges me to think critically, look for patterns, and push myself to find solutions. Over time, I realized that what I love most about learning math is the same thing I love about teaching: helping others make connections and discover new ways of thinking. While math will always be one of my strengths, my passion extends to helping students grow in every subject: Reading, writing, science, social studies, and beyond. As an elementary educator, I want my students to develop curiosity, confidence, and a genuine love of learning that reaches across disciplines.

For me, the purpose of education is connection. Between a teacher and student, between knowledge and experience, and between learning and life. Education should help children see the world as an exciting place full of possibilities. My role as a teacher is to create an environment where students feel safe, valued, and motivated to explore new ideas. Whether we're learning about fractions, ecosystems, or historical events, I want my classroom to be a place where questions are encouraged, mistakes are seen as learning opportunities, and every student feels capable of success.

In the elementary classroom, every subject builds on another. Literacy is the foundation that supports all learning. Students need to read to understand a math problem, write to express a scientific observation, and communicate clearly in every situation. I want to integrate literacy and mathematics by showing students how to read for meaning, think critically, and use academic vocabulary to explain their reasoning. I will draw from practices such as the Essential

Instructional Practices in Disciplinary Literacy (Michigan Association, 2019) to help students connect words, ideas, and numbers in meaningful ways.

To help my students thrive, I know they must first feel emotionally and physically safe. I'm inspired by the principles of Conscious Discipline (Bailey, 2014), which focus on building a resilient classroom where students' emotional needs are met. I plan to design my classroom to support that. By using calm spaces, predictable routines, and plenty of opportunities for teamwork and responsibility, my student can grow to achieve success. I will acknowledge my students' contributions, celebrate their efforts, and make sure they know they are an important part of our classroom community.

I also believe the environment itself teaches. My classroom will be used to encourage independence, collaboration, and curiosity. Materials like books, math tools, and art supplies will be ready to support exploration. A classroom library with diverse stories and voices will help students see themselves and others in what they read. Student work will also decorate the walls throughout the year, reminding everyone that their efforts matter.

Ultimately, my goal as a teacher is to guide my students toward becoming lifelong learners. I want them to leave my classroom not only stronger in math or reading, but also more confident in who they are and what they can do. I hope they carry forward a sense of curiosity, creativity, and care for others. Teaching, to me, is more than covering content; it's about shaping the kind of environment where students feel seen, supported, and inspired to keep learning long after they leave my classroom.

## References

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