

KARI YOUNG

Educational Philosophy

I firmly believe that the classroom can be described as a **microcosm of human society** and as such, should be treated as the connected entity that it is. The classroom is where diversity exists, where values can be internalized, and where teacher and students alike can **thrive as a community**. This sense of community in the classroom is essential for students to be successful personally, socially, and of course, academically. My position as an educator is to facilitate learning, promote a respectful, engaging environment, and maximize the learning experience of each child in an effort for his/her utmost potential to be reached.

In order for students to get the most out of the instruction they receive, I believe that it is largely advantageous for the instruction to be taught from a **responsive approach**. Continuously assessing students, formally or informally, can provide insight into where they are and what they need to further develop their understanding. Whether it is through providing background knowledge, differentiating instruction, or re-teaching information through the utilization of different formats, students cannot continue to progress until they have established a strong foundation.

For the current generation of learners, **technology** has surpassed being an elective option, but is instead a now crucial component of education. When used appropriately, technology has the power to make learning more engaging and more efficient; it can also be utilized as a method of assessment. Learners should not only be exposed to different forms of technology, but should have the opportunity to both explore and create within these different mediums. Regardless of the capacity of technology present within a school, the students' learning can be supplemented.

Due to the multitude of challenges facing education today, I understand that it is difficult and/or nearly impossible to provide students with a **truly balanced curriculum** that includes the four disciplines, technology, the arts, and physical education. I believe it is profoundly beneficial that these components are present in a student's academic experience, albeit challenging to successfully accomplish and implement. Exposure to these facets allows students to generate interests, find the areas in which they excel, and expand the possibilities for a career path later on in life.

I view education as the **pinnacle component of progress**, on both a national and global scale; an educated, open-minded, and driven population will provide opportunities for all individuals to thrive. I have chosen to become an Elementary Educator to assist in the provision of these opportunities because each and every child should have the option and resources necessary to achieve his/her version of success.