



My Teaching Philosophy

Rebecca Lavery, M.Ed.

www.rafikeystosuccess.com

“Giving students the keys to *literacy* and *learning* success.”

<p><i>I believe</i> learning is a lifelong process.</p>	<p><i>Therefore, I will</i> model that I too am in a constant state of learning. I will read, write, and study right alongside them as I too pursue lifelong learning and equip them with those same strategies and tools I use to self-direct my own learning.</p>
<p><i>I believe</i> all students are capable learners.</p>	<p><i>Therefore, I will</i> communicate that daily and provide opportunities to ensure students can and will be successful, especially when they see the value and relevance in what they are expected to learn, with complete confidence in their ability to learn it.*</p>
<p><i>I believe</i> students need to see value and relevance in the concept being taught.</p>	<p><i>Therefore, I will</i> commit the time needed to create culturally relevant and challenging materials and activities that meet the needs of my diverse and unique learners. I will create <i>meaningful</i> tasks where I assign and assess with <i>purpose</i> and with the end goal in mind - making that known to students. Also, I will begin the learning process with making connections, asking questions, and tapping into student’s background knowledge, which I believe is key in helping them see the value, relevance and that they are capable of learning.</p>
<p><i>I believe</i> classroom expectations should be high, clear, and consistent.</p>	<p><i>Therefore, I will</i> take the time to communicate the expectations and guidelines during the first days of school, practice these expectations until they become a habit, and then being consistent in following through with these expectations.</p>
<p><i>I believe</i> in taking the time to develop a classroom community.</p>	<p><i>Therefore, I will</i> make an effort to know individual students - their home life, their culture, their likes, dislikes, experiences, what they believe - all of which shape what they say, do, and how they learn. I will do what it takes to create a classroom where students feel safe to express themselves, have a sense of ownership, and where learning opportunities inspire them to do their best work - collaboratively and individually.</p>
<p><i>I believe</i> parental involvement is key.</p>	<p><i>Therefore, I will</i> make every effort to communicate expectations, issues, and praises clearly and timely. When needed, I will also give them the tools necessary to help their student(s).</p>
<p><i>I believe</i> students learn best when teachers, students, administration, and parents work together.</p>	<p><i>Therefore, I will</i> strive to communicate well, remain respectful, and build trust between us in what is said or done with or without their presence.</p>
<p><i>I believe</i> reading and writing skills play the biggest role in providing a well rounded education.</p>	<p><i>Therefore, I will</i> help students see the reciprocal relationship that exists between reading and writing - that one cannot read well without writing well, or write well without first being a reader. Great learners must master both in order to be successful learners; for one cannot be a scientist, mathematician, historian, or pursue any field <i>well</i> without first having learned the value of reading and writing.</p>
<p><i>I believe</i> learning is an active process.</p>	<p><i>Therefore, I will</i> provide opportunities for students to ask questions and seek answers, to engage in conversation, to create memorable learning experiences, to connect, analyze, experiment, create, practice, present, observe, and gain confidence.</p>
<p><i>I believe</i> that teaching is a work of heart.</p>	<p><i>Therefore, I will</i> recognize that every student has value and is valued. Every student has a purpose and needs purpose. Every story, every heart issue, every personal experience, everyone’s ability to express themselves matters deeply. Because students learn when their teacher is confident in their ability to learn and comes alongside them in their discoveries as a guide who inspires and provides the tools to develop into a lifelong learner.*</p>