

# Teaching Philosophy

Chelsey Wiersma

Students thrive in places where they feel they belong, more specifically a loving community. My classroom is a place where students feel loved, cherished, and where they grow as learners. Different perspectives and cultures in my classroom are valued. Within my teaching, I look for ways for students to use their voices in the things they believe in. This could be a writing piece, an art project, or a debate to make sure their voices and perspectives are heard in our classroom and eventually outside of our four walls.

Students will learn the value of community service and giving back to their community. We will make the school an integral part of the greater community and give students opportunities to make a difference. We teach students to treat each other the way they want to be treated within the wall of our classroom. We need to install these values outside of our learning community.

I believe a teacher will walk into their classroom on the first day with high expectations for their new students. I aim to give clear and consistent expectations throughout the course of the school year to ensure student success and positive student morale. Also giving students positive, educative redirection will keep students on task while maintaining a trusting relationship between teacher and student.

Every student is different and sustaining equity-oriented classroom is key to students' success. As a teacher, I will be responsive to students' needs and provide scaffolded lessons and differentiated instruction that provide just the right amount of challenge. I will use formative data to inform instruction and respond to students' needs.

I also believe in the use of project based learning and STEM. Students should be challenged and be given the opportunity to explore and inquire throughout their learning. Students will be problem solvers in our classroom which fosters lifelong learners.

The use of technology will also be an integral part of our learning community. Students will bring their Funds of Knowledge from home into the classroom with their technology use and will teach me new tricks along the way. Technology will be used as a forum for students writing, whether it is writing a newsletter or educating parents and the community on issues that the students feel strongly about. Technology is a great way to communicate ideas on our community and world so we will teach students how to use it for authentic purposes.

I also believe in working in a teaching community where my colleagues and I learn from each other. Collaboration with my colleagues creates a richer experience for students and helps me grow as a lifelong learner.

As a teacher, it is my responsibility and privilege to facilitate an inclusive, welcoming community in which students will love learning.