## My Educational Philosophy by Alva M. Hartry

Ever since I can remember, I have always wanted to become an educator. Along the way, I contribute my love for education mainly to my 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Hardie and my 7th grade history teacher, Mr. Burns, and my high school cheerleading coach, Mrs. Teague. Now, I can truly say that everything that they believed and showed throughout their teaching and leading while educating me really had an effect on what I believe today. Also, I can remember "playing school" with my neighborhood friends. Of course, I was always the teacher or the boss. Through the years, I have felt progressively more called to the education profession. The education profession has become a means for the greatest learning, contribution, and growth of which I am capable. My educational philosophy finds its beginning in these formative experiences. It is made of several linked components representing the aspects of teaching and leading which I value most: accountability, responsibility, accessibility, engagement, renewal, and professionalism.

First of all, as an educator, I believe that all students can learn anything if placed in a positive environment. How quickly they learn depends upon the ability of the child and the effectiveness of the school setting. Educators must make sure that the school's culture is positively evident and that the school is existing to promote learning. As the teacher, I must be accountable for the learning of every student. In addition, I must be aware that there is diversity within the school. As an instructional professional, I must develop ways to reach all students. Additionally, I must create the best possible environment for the students and myself so that we together can each reach the ultimate goal which is the success of student achievement.

Furthermore, I believe teachers guide students in their educational journey by providing direction and help in overcoming barriers and stumbling blocks. Teachers must create an environment that help inspires and motivates all students to expand their horizons and challenge them to grow intellectually. Educator must be flexible enough to adapt visions according to the needs of the students, community, faculty, and the setting in which the educational experience is taking place. Moreover,

they must recognize that students deserve to be treated as individuals rather than as part of a group.

In addition, I believe that all students have a right to expect excellence in academic instruction. As an educator, I must stress importance of creativity and innovation, and I must view change as a positive process that should be welcomed and supported. I believe that creating an environment supportive of creativity is essential in maintaining a successful environment.

More than ever, I am convinced that the difference between a great school and a good school lies in the area of the spirit in which teaching and learning take place. Students who are not only productive but happy and teachers who have mastered their subject areas and developed a passion for teaching are clear signs of successful teaching and learning. It is important that a spark of curiosity and a love of questioning be apparent at every grade level. I value educators who create the environment for the student who questions rather than the one who answers from memory. Interdisciplinary instruction is favored so that students may see how instruction is interrelated among the disciplines. In today's society, I must understand that hands-on learning with real world applications should be valued and used where all

students can relate. An excellent school is one with an excitement and joy of learning in the air and one that leads students from curiosity to wisdom.

As a career teacher, I believe that creating opportunities for renewal is essential to my longevity and continued professional excellence. I believe in nurturing a sense of spirit through my connections with students, faculty, and staff, through my reflective role as a teacher leader, and through ongoing learning associated with my all duties. I need to be someone who is willing to listen and talk with the imaginative voices, and allow them to be heard in the greater organization. I feel there is a need for compassionate, strong, and dedicated teachers who are excited about working with children. In our competitive society, it is important for students to not only receive a solid education, but to work with someone who is aware of and sensitive to their individual needs.

My educational philosophy is comparable with the philosophy of both my personal and professional life. It affects my attitude, effects my decisions, and directs my undertakings with others. Also, I should serve as an example of professionalism, which my colleagues can emulate. My actions,

speech, appearance, and values should be of the highest standard in dealings within the educational environment. Moreover, my impact on youth and coworkers through my years of working in education has proven to be successful; subsequently, I believe my philosophy is a successful method. I believe the impact that I have made and will continue to make within the educational community is that of good judgment, foresight, and patience that at one time several wonderful adults, such as teachers, coaches, and administrators, taught to me.

The most essential parts of my educational philosophy stem from giving each child an opportunity to learn, but another key component is compassion and belief that each child can learn. Every child should be given equal access to information as well as given the support and encouragement. Also, it is my job as an educator to make sure culture is a positive one so the child will and can learn. Moreover, my attitude and professionalism as an educator in a school is very important. It has a direct effect on the education of children and the moral of faculty, staff, and the community. Also, I must remain open-minded to the ideas and suggestions put forth by the creative individuals I work with and work to implement ideas that can contribute to improving the

product, process, or ourselves.

As I definitely accept as true, the ultimate purpose of education is to produce individuals who strive for excellence for themselves, their peers, and their community. Students enter the rest of their lives with the valuable lessons that they can make a difference. In the final analysis, the student instilled with the higher standards of life will take those thoughts into the larger community and become working, productive citizens. While teaching and educating, we all must remember; children must be placed first in the educational process.