

Personal Code of Ethics – My beliefs

I believe every individual is worthy of respect and support. Without passion and emotion we get stagnant results. I believe we can all continue to learn until we die. My heart is compassionate for those who never let me give up and had faith I could overcome my challenges. It is that gift from my students, teachers, family, and community members that inspire me to make the same connections and support them with the same. Together we can accomplish amazing things and be fulfilled with our own lives.

I think the best way to support each other is to be actively involved. I can be a role model to others, both inside and outside of the school setting. In school though, I believe that students can be taught about specific qualities of moral integrity and how to interact with others while developing positive self-images through investigations, role play, and discussions. Sharing about how they see others making choices and by judging the outcomes of those choices can lead students to accomplish many things in meeting their life goals. Continuous monitoring and journaling of progress and making life style changes [is] critical (Park, 2009).

An educator's belief in the worth and dignity of each student recognizes the supreme importance of the pursuit of truth, devotion to excellence, and the nurture of the democratic principles.

I refer to our Constitutional Rights and our democratic processes in my teaching in order to share the privileges we call rights, as citizens of the United States, and how these rights lead to a free education that should be treasured by all students. I never want students to miss out on what is rightfully theirs. I hold the obligation to see my student's needs are met because of their rights.

When making ethical decisions, I take into consideration the special circumstances with regard to codes of conduct that is expected of me. The optimal outcomes the decisions I make may have great impacts on others immediately and in their future. This is a huge obligation I have to ensure the best outcome for my students. When I concentrate on making the best choices presented to me it is easier to make the right ones because teaching is a fantastic responsibility I cherish. When I make ethically wise choices I know I can live a happier life and improve the lives of others.

I have learned that I will likely face situations that will challenge me and I aim to make decisions as a "moral educator" rather than taking an uneducated or passive stance as a 'coward' or that of the 'foolhardy' radical; who reacts in haste and anger making attempts to overturn issues or systems that I disagree with (Henry Parker, 2013). As an educator, I learned that building character in myself (and in my students) is an on-going process that should entail pre-teaching and discussions; in which we can role-play to ensure our success in making appropriate ethical/moral choices. As stated by Mackenzie & Mackenzie (2010), ethical behavior has two elements: to recognize or to challenge ethical dilemmas. Also, I now have four rules to consider when encountering ethical dilemmas as these authors stress we should consider before making decisions.

I will continue to put these four rules into effect in my life: #1 Golden Rule (Kant's Theory), #2 Rule of Benevolence (Utilitarian Principle), #3 Rule of Universality (size & number), #4 Rule of Publicity (all

view). I will not act in haste and pick my battles with wise supportive well thought out anticipated outcomes. I will think beyond my world and personal satisfaction.

The use of 21st Century social media needs to be used ethically by students and teachers. I will use media knowing it can be very public and open to interpretation with clarity to prevent detrimental effect on my school, students, or moral character. I will demonstrate appropriate behavior, modeling and educating students and families. In preventing student to student abuse and promoting acceptable uses of social media, I will model and teach techniques for morally correct practices.

I will work with all educators work in an ever changing environment involving ever changing individuals with whom I will find value and understanding to support their needs also. I have working relationships with students, families, colleagues, administrators, and community members that I will honor and treasure which leads to allowing me to make ethical decisions on a daily basis. I will refer to the knowledge and understanding of ethical philosophies and expected practices. Infantino and Wilke (2009, p.7) discuss that when educators base their practices on sound decisions they "...will lead to greater success when it comes to making good decisions in our personal and professional lives". I vow to do my best to be respected by all that are touched by my life.

With great sincerity,

Corinne Messman

References

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