

MY PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

Dolynessa J. Galeon
Agusan National High School

The African proverb says, “It takes a village to educate a child”.

While educating a child is primarily the duty of parents, the role of teachers in developing students who are competent, skilled, and charismatic servant leaders in their respective communities cannot be underestimated.

What does teaching do to achieve such goals?

I believe that teaching is more than just a noblest profession but a vocation, a calling, a summon, or an invitation, to a particular way of life that shapes the character, caliber, and future of an individual. Teaching describes a strong and persistent disposition to serve for others. In a secular sense, a teacher is called by society. Teaching denotes a social mission. So, by using the word vocation, typically teachers have a calling to their particular profession – a strong urge to share their love for learning and passion for their work.

I believe that being a teacher is more than just a provider of quality education. Aside from the responsibilities of making daily lesson plans, instructional materials, and other unending paper works, child care and love for students are the most important aspects and chief qualifications of being a good teacher. Teachers need to be consciously aware of all professional obligations that society is expecting from them. The moment a child enrolls in a school, the parent places the child under the effective authority of the school. Consequently, teachers engaged in child care have special parental authority and responsibility for the children while under their supervision, instruction or custody (Art. 218, Family Code of the Philippines).

I believe that good teachers play a vital role as “*in loco parentis*” to children under their stewardship. This means, teachers are considered substitute parents and, as such, shall exercise parental authority over their students (Art. 349, par. 2 of RA 386). Therefore, they are answerable for whatever happens sustained or committed by the student while under their custody, along with other kinds of injuries, like emotional or academic problems resulting from harassment, abuse and their negligence of duty.

I believe that good teachers must know that they are not just teaching under a structured curriculum, but also under a hidden curriculum as well. There are equally important things that can be learned outside the four walls of the classroom: their interaction with the other learners, their involvement in co-curricular activities, how they manage to handle well various circumstances, and how well they contribute meaningfully to create a friendly and caring environment conducive for learning. Teachers don’t only deliver the learning standards that are expected of the students to understand and demonstrate. They must also instill good values to the students and educate their heart to become who they are as persons.

I believe that good teachers are the most important persons in any civilization because they are channels of transmitting and communicating knowledge, values and skills to the learners. The molding

and building of the nation depend on teachers. They can either make and break the students. Moreover, teachers should embrace virtue ethics as their guide to influence and mold their students into intellectually sound, morally responsible and spiritual people. In other words, they should model what they teach. They should walk the talk.

Therefore, teachers deliver more than just the mastery of content, the technological skills, the ability to integrate myriad of pedagogies and strategies of teaching, the capacity to relate content to other disciplines, the delivery of a curriculum that responds to the circumstances, needs, and interests of the learners. Great teachers show kindness to students, colleagues, parents, and those around them. They should be compassionate. As they say: teaching is a very humanistic profession, and compassion is the utmost feeling of understanding and showing others you are concerned about them. A compassionate teacher models that characteristic to students and, as a result, students will be more open to understanding the world around them. Nevertheless, great teachers should be empathic, should have the positive outlook in life, and should build of relationships.

I believe that good teachers have an in-depth understanding of the principle that “no one size fits all”. Students who come to their classrooms carry different needs, learning styles and backgrounds, abilities, and individual differences. Good teachers know well how to differentiate instruction, formulate and discover different strategies to assess the learners, and find ways on how to scaffold and intensify the learnings of students in order to meet desired learning outcomes.

I believe that good teachers are lifelong learners. They should continuously evolve and always be updated to the current trends of education (e.g., the Fifth Industrial Revolution). They must be flexible and adaptable to the changes of the times by integrating digital tools and applications in learning activities in order to produce fun-filled, interactive and engaging learning moments. Also, they should put premium in educational research to address problems in the classroom.

I believe that the great teachers are committed to the holistic development of their learners. Great teachers: 1) promote quality education and academic excellence; 2) provide students with the right information; 3) train them according to their inclinations and interests; 4) form them with the right sense of values; and 5) teach students to learn positive thinking, to make good judgements and to realize their potentials and uniqueness. In this way, great teachers will contribute meaningfully for the transformation of society.

Indeed, I believe that good teachers can bring about positive changes in this world if they continue to inform, form and transform their learners into educated, humane and virtuous individuals.

So, it takes great teachers to raise a child!

MY PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

Jorge M. Bathan
Quisao National High School

I believe that teaching is a skill. There are lots of strong and intelligent minds who find it hard to teach or transfer learning among students. Therefore, as a teacher, I believe that I have a mission to accomplish: to teach young minds. I may not know what their future holds but taking my role to be a part of their journey, I can contribute to their desires to have a brighter tomorrow.

I believe that every child is special. They have different learning abilities, talents, and skills that I am responsible to develop and help grow. I know that their environment greatly affects the way they behave and learn, that is why I need to know their identities, their past experiences, and their present circumstances. For healthier learning experiences, I have to prepare different learning practices that will respond to their needs and capabilities. Teaching is not merely teaching what is in the book; teaching is an approach to help develop students holistically as a person.

My goal for my students is for them to understand the importance of education, and to instill values that will mold them as productive and responsible individuals of society. It is also my goal to inspire and motivate them to strive and work hard in pursuing their dreams. I believe that planting them the seeds of perseverance to face the real-life battles are life-skills that will lead them to make better things happened.

To implement those principles, I will use my knowledge and my ability to know them better so that I can start off where will I meet their needs as learners. I will use my knowledge and skills of different teaching techniques and strategies that best fit their learning abilities. I will also openly communicate to students as well as to their parents and guardians in reaching them out, making sure that no one will be left behind.

As the adage says “we cannot give, what we do not have”; it is my duty as a teacher to constantly improve my craft so that I will continuously nurture every learner. I will embrace change for the better, adapt to new things, making lessons relevant to the demands of the fast-changing world.

Teachers are born leaders who guide our learners and shape their futures. Teachers are servant leaders who are always ready to be in service of the learners and of others, among colleagues in the workplace, and of the community and the nation at large. A teacher is always there for a helping hand, making everyone feel that they belong and are important with no reservation. I will create an environment where students will be loved and cared for, accepted and respected.

MY PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

Lenard C. Tulod

Ninoy Aquino Senior High School

My philosophy of teaching is simply that is realistic, attainable and has a high probability to produce competent and prepared individuals.

As a teacher, it is my primary duty to be a source of knowledge to my students. I do believe that learning should focus on developing and improving of the three domains of learning —cognitive , affective and psychomotor— that leads them to be holistic learners.

A good and effective teacher always adheres to what society dictates, to certain techniques in executing the curriculum, and to adjustments in learners' style and cognitive level. Thus, if the trend is what the "21st century way" says, it is a must to follow that and be adaptable to change. In this scenario, I should inculcate quick reaction and preparedness should in my mind as an educator. This allows me to serve the needs of the students, as what their generation requires.

On the other hand, I believe that ways of teaching don't have to be teacher centered. Pedagogy always considers students' diversity. To demystifying further, a teacher must know who are his learners — their character in particular.

Furthermore, I prefer teaching that is implemented in a conducive environment — free from any distraction and noise. For this reason, on how well prepared we are and the extent of students' effort to learn our objective will most likely be attained properly, lessons won't flow smoothly. Thus, I rely on the idea of classroom management: that everything should be in the consciousness of the teacher for the sake of his/her student.

MY PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

Angelica Mangawang Burayag
Department of Education – Region III

William Arthur Ward once said, " The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." This is a powerful and actively-oriented statement that sums up the role of a teacher in every classroom. It is a teacher who does not only teach content knowledge, but a teacher who knows how to inspire learners and who leads them towards their betterment.

Communication is an essential aspect in the teaching and learning process. It is through communicating to students that I was able to know what issues or topics are important to them. Having conversations with them is also my way of learning what their experiences and feelings are towards a certain topic we are studying. Thus, as a teacher, it is very important for me to establish a good relationship with my students —built by trust and respect. I always make sure that the classroom community is a place where learners could share their ideas and learn from each other at the same time. It is a place where I could give to them the right tools and information in order for them to positively influence their academic community and the society where they are in.

Being a teacher also means that I carry the responsibility of fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills that students need for the learners to properly see, think, and act in the world. Through these lifelong skills that I instill in them, I could be able to inspire them to work on their own betterment.

Part of my teaching method as well is to radiate my optimism that would motivate learners to master the content and to constantly improve. I see to it that within my class, I provide a wide variety of tasks with clearly defined goals together with the evaluation of their works that thrusts them to improve. Moreover, engaging students into collaborative and cooperative learning is another way to support learning.

Assessing the learners can only be reliable if a teacher truly understands the nature of the learners and recognizes their differences. This assessment will also help the teacher effectively evaluate the work of the learners. In addition, the teacher must clearly communicate her/his expectations for the class, reflecting the sincere attitude of the teacher to her students and her concern to their welfare.

Teachers should also show their professionalism, enthusiasm, and passion for learning to students. One way of showing a teacher's love for learning is her ability to point out the positives of each student while also giving them a constructive criticism if needed. Since a great classroom must be built with trust and respect, a great teacher must be willing to listen and to compromise, as well as know how to be firm in her decisions if needed.

They say that a teacher cannot be a teacher if she is not a lifelong learner. Thus, a teacher must continuously engage herself in activities that could build her wealth of professional knowledge (taking additional courses, advancing her degree, and attending workshops or conferences). Lifelong learning provides teachers a great venue to learn new ideas and theories that she could apply within the classroom, and give the students the information and tools they need.

Being a great teacher can be defined in so many ways. But some of the most salient things that a teacher should possess is being student-centered and being dedicated to lifelong learning. These things help fulfill our desire to make positive contributions to our learners, to teaching colleagues, and to the field of education.

MY PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

Cherry Gil J. Mendoza
Parañaque National High School

Teaching is transformational, designed for the betterment of everyone. I always believe that teaching is a gift, must be received wholeheartedly and must be lived passionately. When God endowed someone the ability to touch minds, hearts and hands and s/he becomes a faithful steward of that ability, inconceivable things happen.

Learning is fun and vital. In order to live, one must learn, unlearn and relearn. It is through discovery that the person realizes the meaning and worth of everything around him, including his existence. In order for learning to take place, there should be a stimulus, a reactor and a positive change in behavior. These might not happen all at once because learning takes time. Individuals must be given time to navigate, assimilate and reflect. Learning never stops. It is not confined to space nor time and no one has a monopoly of it. As a teacher, it is my responsibility to provide meaningful experiences to my students and guide them towards interesting and relevant explorations and practical applications.

I am a visionary leader. I plan, execute and make things happen. My life revolves around my students. They are my passion who always compel me to a course of action. I always envision my students to become the Filipinos they ought to be: *Maka-Diyos, Maka-tao, Maka-kalikasan at Maka-bansa*. It is my joy to equip my students with the knowledge and skills needed to become productive citizens of this country, and to become global citizens with their identities as Filipinos intact (amid the pressures of globalization). I work on inspiring young people and mobilizing them to become wide-eyed, analytical and responsive who will turn out as game changers in their family and community —locally, nationally and globally.

Fixing my eyes on the prize is the key. Having the end in mind will motivate me to dream bigger, work harder and relate deeper. A transformed life and a growing community are the end goals. These goals may take a heavy toll on me, but this is what public service is all about. I accepted the challenge to teach 18 years ago and the passion keeps on burning. I deliver quality instruction to my students. Mastery of content is important but how you convey it and make the discussion engaging to students, with diverse personalities and backgrounds, makes teaching challenging and interesting. Teachers never tire from planning. From content to pedagogy to technology, all things must be laid out. There are no one size fits all strategies. When execution comes, confidence and flexibility are my shield. Differentiated instruction makes each lesson appealing and relevant to my students. The art of questioning draws me nearer to my students, students with other students, and students with themselves. Activities should stir up curiosity, topics should be relevant to the present day, and teachers should facilitate things well. There are ups and downs in the teaching-learning process, but what matters is the ability of the teacher to learn from achievements and limitations and to continue the drive to improve.

I am a dream chaser. I keep on pursuing things I love and I want. When it comes to my profession and passion, I never stop looking for opportunities that will make me a better person. Fear may dawn on me, but it will never hinder me in trying and learning new things. I know my weaknesses and limitations. Hence, I am not scared to ask questions and help from other people. I can be a leader, I can be a follower, I can be a team player. I accept challenges and work hard. I share and give back to my school and students. I serve my country to the best of my ability, all for the glory of God.

I am blessed to be part of a school where discipline, excellence, accountability and responsibility thrive. Teaching in a big school is both a privilege and a challenge. Insufficient resources cannot limit us from providing excellent services to our students. We work hand in hand with different stakeholders to address the needs of everyone. We promote partnerships. We work to make the school a safe place for everyone. A place where freedom is exercised, equality is promoted, and education is easily accessed.

Teaching is a gift from God. The way I perceive it, utilize and enhance it is my present to Him. Students are gems. They come in different shapes and textures but they are valuable and precious. Stakeholders are my partners. Through collaboration, I will scale heights —*para sa bata, para sa bayan*.

Teaching is my calling. This is my passion. This is my commitment to God and my nation.

MY PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

Luningning T. Diones
Parañaque National High School

Education is a continuous process, so my teaching philosophy is I must learn, unlearn and relearn.

For the past 20 years, I've been enjoying my profession as a vocation and as a commitment. I believe that teachers are second parents and schools are second home. Why do I consider myself as a parent to my students? Because I do not only teach school-related lessons but also lessons in life. I believe that a teacher can greatly inspire students to reach their dreams and give pieces of advice when needed. I believe that whenever they are in school, they will learn productively, feel safe and protected.

Learning is a continuous process, and I believe the teacher must continue learning. As a Senior High School teacher, I review my lessons, read a lot, and search for books that can add to my knowledge. I attend training activities and capacity building workshops, to improve my knowledge, pedagogical and technology integration contents. I should learn how to be fully aware of the feelings, emotions and behaviors of my students for me to create a classroom with trust, hope and confidence. I must continue to improve my skills and collaborate with my colleagues. I must continually build my confidence in teaching, to inspire my students and to continue to grow.

Before I was idealistic with my students that I thought they must study the way I did when I was a student. I also assumed that when I ask a question, they should be always be prepared and provide me an answer. I also thought that when I discuss my lessons and give a quiz after, high scores in quizzes are the bases of mastery of the subject matter. I discard these assumptions anymore. Now I know that unlearning is also learning how to reflect and acknowledging that every individual is unique. I realized that I have to change that mindset and be flexible. With unlearning, I believe there is more than one correct and right answer; there could be different ways to solve problems.

According to Merriam Webster online dictionary, to relearn is to learn again. As a teacher, I have the passion to re-learn things because I need to reskill and upskill my teaching strategies. I could have learned technology before, the basics of using technology in teaching, but I need to relearn to review and revisit. In this ongoing pandemic that is filled with online classes (blended learning approach in our school is recommended), I try to explore and apply technology integration to my online classes. I re-learned the various educational tools that can make my discussion easier, creative and purposeful. And for the previous months of training and upskilling, I have learned, unlearned and re-learned to transform myself as a better educator.

MY PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

Rowena O. Tolentino

San Jose City National High School

A good teacher is dedicated to learning to his or her discipline, to his or her learners, and to making the best possible for all of us to live. Teachers provide education that is essential in all aspects.

Teaching is a never-ending process of learning from your learners, colleagues, parents, and the community, where you learn new strategies and ideas for progress and development. Make everything to inspire young minds, to use ideas more creatively, and to invite them to think deeply and critically about the subject matter, to take on more challenging works to become successful in life. Every step of the way, as a teacher, I must attempt to motivate, enable, and inspire my learners. I believe that teaching helps me inspire and positively impact the lives of my learners.

My teaching philosophy revolves around the concept of learning; "I do, we do, and you do." A good teacher cannot begin or continue to inspire learning without being a learner. This means that the teacher demonstrates how to accomplish something, the learners participate in the lesson with the teacher, and then the learners apply what they've learned on their own. Teachers also impart with all my learners' lifelong learning that books cannot teach. Everyone in the classroom also contributes as a student, teacher, and thinker. I learn from learners as much as they learn from me.

I believe that all learners are unique and that teachers should cater to students' needs. Every learner studies differently, and everyone learns in their unique ways. As a teacher, I use multiple methods of teaching to reach learners so that no one is left behind. Learners learn not just in the four corners of the classroom, but learning outside will make the learners know more about reality in society. Always integrate the real-life situation in your lessons. It is my dream to help my learners develop their critical thinking ability and emotional intelligence for them to become globally competitive individuals.

"Each learner brings their particular brand of genius." In a world of inclusion and acceptance, of diversity and uniqueness, and of looking at the individual strengths of each child in an educational setting, it is only fitting that every teacher must know how to look and bring out the "genius" in every learner. "Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them." Learners are not someone to be molded, but they should be discovered and honed. They should be the teacher's legacy of character and faith.

A good teacher is dedicated to learning, to his or her discipline, to his or her learners, and to making the best possible for all of us to live. My goal is to be an asset to the institution I belong to, and to share knowledge and experience in helping the learners' education. As a teacher and their second parents, I will not only teach my lessons for the day but to share and let them know how great and good our God is. So that in the future, where ever they go, what they have learned and heard from our school will be forever with them.

I must be able to teach concepts in the simplest ways possible –or else learners will hardly absorb these concepts. As a good teacher, I must use multiple methods of teaching, as well as different approaches, strategies, and techniques in teaching 21st-century learners, so that no one is left behind.

To keep abreast in the trends of the educational system and to adopt changes in the “new normal” so I can be able to give what I have to my learners because I believe that you can’t teach what you don’t know.

Technology matters in the teaching profession in the New Normal. Having diverse learners, flexibility in many changes, willingness to learn new things, readiness to integrate available materials and creativity to use the technology are my weapons for effective teaching.

And I will equip learners with relevant and timely strategies and techniques on how to adapt education in the new normal, and to continue professional development through different educational organizations.

Life is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice. Whatever we do in our life is always anchored by our own decisions, not just merely happening by chance. If we choose to learn and never stop from growing, we can always share these learnings with our learners. So, if there is always a chance for us to learn and grow, grab these chances because the consequence will always give us a benefit.

Teaching is a lifelong learning process; a good teacher should never stop learning. Therefore, a teacher must ensure his/her professional growth to be able to produce lifelong learners. A good teacher must constantly learn what is new in the discipline.

Learners are unique and must have a stimulating educational environment where they can grow physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially. I desire to create this type of atmosphere where learners can meet their full potential. I will provide a safe environment where learners are invited to share their ideas and take risks.

MY PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

Joseph Earvin C. Valdesimo
Vinapor National High School

One thing that matters most as a teacher is the attitude and behavior of my students: the consistency and willingness of a learner to learn to make him/her easier to teach. Yes, the learning process might be painful and frustrating, but a learner's consistency and eagerness to learn will push him/her towards the right path to learning.

Learning does not happen overnight. This "very long" process requires hardwork to understand every lesson that is delivered to the students. I know that I am expected to give my best in teaching my students to learn on their own.

In the kind of learners we have in this 21st century, it is quite challenging that we teachers have so many competitors for our students' attention. With the emergence of smartphones, the internet, mobile gaming, and the likes, students have become passive to learning and forgot the primary purpose of using technology. They failed to realize that these are not just for entertainment and leisure. That is why for me, I find it like a miracle if we have student/s who are really dedicated to learning, not because they are after higher marks, but they are just curious and enthusiastic to learn.

That is why, as a teacher, I always believe that attitude and behavior will always matter. In my lessons, I always tell them that intelligence is a great factor to succeed in learning. But intelligence is nothing if you don't have the will and dedication to learn. I always admire those students, who are still motivated and who keep on trying despite the hardships they encounter in the learning process.

As a teacher, I focus more on the behavioral side of my students, I give more emphasis that learning skills can be taught as long as they are also willing to listen and comply. After all, being a teacher doesn't just revolve around teaching our students to read, write and memorize. Educating is also about helping them become patient, dedicated, disciplined, and motivated to learn so that they can also inspire others. Education is not just for those who are intelligent students, who can recite everything the teacher wants them to recite, rather for everyone who has the willingness to learn, which will make them a relevant individual in the society.

We always argue which is an essential factor in an individual's success: Intelligence Quotient (IQ) or the Emotional Quotient (EQ)? Some say it is the IQ because an intelligent individual can analyze information and decide using critical thinking skills, while some say it is the EQ because success requires emotional stability in handling difficult situations. You need intelligence for you to plan your future, and emotions to come up with an effective decision.

MY PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

Manuel R. Hidalgo
Pila Senior High School

My name is Manuel Recafort Hidalgo and I have been in the teaching profession for more than 17 years now. Though teaching is not on my original plan because I am a graduate of Bachelor of Arts in Economics, but I believe that this is my calling. Being a teacher is not an easy profession. You have to sacrifice a lot of things such as time, effort and sometimes even your family. It is a vocation given only to people dedicated to work and carrying the right determination to extend the knowledge to others. Teaching is an extraordinary competence that strengthens others, shapes the minds of many, and develops people who want to achieve what they want in life. And this is where I hold my personal mantra in teaching. Just like what we often hear, "*Mahirap pero kinakaya,*" because again, teaching is my calling.

Transforming students into somebody is very challenging. Teaching them basic-to-complex lessons is very difficult. Making them realize their worth as a human being is a formidable task. Helping them realize their dreams sometimes makes you think if you I do this. But this is how learning should be. Remember: we are teachers and this is our role as educators.

In our daily tasks, we are required to assess our students if they are learning. We give them problems to solve and to apply what they have learned. When we see positive results, we praise them, we tap them. At the end of the school year, when we see them marching on the aisle, we congratulate them. And during alumni homecomings, when we notice that they are now successful individuals, their presence provides a great feeling. Why? Because achieving success is our goal for them —to make them learn and transform them into somebody.

Sometimes when we notice that most of our students failed in our subject, we say to ourselves, "what went wrong? ...*Saan ako nagkulang?*" You know deep in your heart that you did your best, but it seems that your best wasn't good enough. Try to ask yourself: Did I really give my best? Did I deliver the lesson as planned? Did I allow them to think critically to meet their full potential? These are just some of the things that we have to consider. I know that learning should not be scripted but we have to teach lessons in a manner relative to what we have stated in our objectives.

If you are a teacher, you should not stop learning. It is a never-ending searching and researching for new knowledge. It is a continuous effort of developing yourself into someone who can inspire others specially your students. A formidable task that can help you to cope with the extremely challenging changes nowadays. Remember that our set of learners in the present era is composed of unique individuals. These students carry varied mindsets and interests. Some students think teachers are perfect human beings who can answer all their queries and the like. The expectation is very high, that's why we have to continuously develop ourselves.

Setting a good environment for our class is part of our duties and responsibilities as teachers. Making them at ease while we are transferring knowledge to them is certainly a must. A classroom or classnet conducive to learning should be one of our priorities as educators. Let them enjoy while learning, yet you set certain parameters and boundaries. Set rules or policies that could not harm them. Teach them the value of love and respect and for sure, everything else will follow.

Finally, I would like to share a quote written by Brad Henry, this quote being my personal mantra. "A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning." The competence to inspire, ignite and instill love for learning is my utmost dream before.. I hope that I became, and will continue to become, an instrument to the success of my students with the help of this maxim.

MY PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

Ma. Andrea P. Fabillon

Cong. Ramon A. Arnaldo High School

Have we ever wondered how people act virtuously and performed uprightly? Have we ever noticed how they are capable in realizing their dreams covered with good moral principles? Teachers are behind in every struggle of a person towards reaching the pedestal of success. They are the reasons why people are driven to reach victories, because their lessons are their guiding trail to self-actualization.

With this, teaching has something to do with the over-all growth of the human being. It is the genuine process of transforming lives of every individual. Teaching is the method by which individuals learn and act to face the realities of life. It is the guiding step in confronting and solving societal issues and problems. Thus, it is through teaching where everyone is cultured and cultivated to attain success.

Getting along with my students and engaging them with the lesson is the key to successful learning. With this, learners can understand and apply the knowledge, concepts and procedures taught to them. It includes design, content selection, delivery, assessment and reflection. Good teaching, then, requires a promise to systematically understanding learning. The aim of teaching is not only to transmit information, but also to transform students from passive recipients of knowledge to active makers of their own and others' knowledge. The teacher cannot transform without the student's active participation. Teaching is basically about producing the instructive, social, and ethical conditions under which students agree to take charge of their own learning, both individually and collectively.

Learning can be defined as the activity or procedure of gaining knowledge or skill by studying, working, being taught, or experiencing something (Merriam-Webster dictionary). Learning is about what students do, not about what we as teachers do. Therefore, learning is the method by which ideas, topics, and lessons are being shared to the students.

As a social studies teacher, I have definite goals for my students: that they would finish their study, be successful in the future, and be active citizens of our nation. They should not forget that bringing the fervor of moral principles can also help the country eradicate evil activities that may ruin the progress of our nation. I should develop their potentials in learning such as making them to be active learner who is always fond of inquiry-based instructions and integrative learning. I believe that my students could be 21st century learners if they become vigorous and dynamic.

Having organized instructional plans can help me accomplish the task of teaching my learners. Having influenced by new technology and new teaching styles, I would prove to my students that there is nothing impossible if we work hard together for the common goals.

To be able to help myself well- trained, I should not miss webinars and trainings offered to us. I believe that being a good teacher is also a good learner. Learning many things and acquiring skills may be helpful tools to effectively teach. I need to master the knowledge and competencies before teaching my students because our students really look up on us.

Finally, I see to it that everything around my classroom is clean and comfortable for the students to learn. I see to it that the environment is free from bullying, waste, and noise. The learning place should be cool so that students may engage and interact with each other.

MY PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

Rowena C. Tremor
La Union National High School

From the Bible Proverbs 22: 6 *“Train a child in the way he should go; even when he grows old, he will not depart from it”*. God has given parents the responsibility to nurture their children. I believe that teachers are the second parents to our learners. Act as a parent inside the classroom setting is setting a good relationship with them. I as a teacher has the responsibility to teach or train them. I must build first a strong foundation of mutual understanding, trust and respect. I must be the first to open communication lines. I believe when both teacher and students understand each other’s goal and points of view, the building blocks of mutual respect are developed.

A good teacher is setting a good example for them. Students do not learn the values that make up strong character simply by being told about them. Rather, they learn by seeing the people around them act on and uphold those values in their daily lives. As a teacher I want to be a role model in all my actions, in the way I talk to them, in the way I communicate and interact to them nicely.

A good teacher knows the feelings of his/her learners. Inside my classroom, I put a bulletin board at the upper north side of my classroom. I call this a *“Feel for the Day,”* instructing students to write a letter to their classmates and even to their teachers to express their feelings and thoughts.

A good teacher employs a variety of strategies which are appropriate in addressing the special educational needs of learners in difficult circumstances. It is my goal to challenge my students daily, with learning that is meaningful, engaging, and purposeful. I want to provide my students opportunities to grow and become critical thinkers and problem solvers through different strategies in my classroom, I provide my students with inquiry-based lessons contextualized in real-world situations so they may learn to conquer issues at school and in the world out there. It is important for me to be flexible and to modify my lessons as needed to reach all students, catering their individual differences and needs.

Finally, to teach is to touch lives forever. Being teacher is not just a job or a career, it is a 24/7 identity. A teacher never stops being a teacher in the eyes of the learners, no matters what day of the week, season of the year or decade of life. They will still be called you *“my teacher”*.

MY PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

John Paul C. Paje
Naugsol Integrated School

Teaching makes all profession possible, they say. But for me, teaching makes every profession notable, sensible, and proactive. Teaching builds an individual who shall become a productive building block of society hereafter.

In our country, teaching is not a lucrative profession. It is becoming a quotidian act where the personnel in the education sector clamor for salary increase; according to them, salary *per se* does not reflect the effort and hard times that teachers exert and meet in cascading our mandates. So, why did I choose this path?

Before enrolling in college, I already made up my mind that someday, I will become a teacher. This was instilled in my mind as early as when I was in Grade 4. Prior to it, I was always at the tail end of the class standing. Maybe because I was the youngest in our class, and the Law of Readiness proposed by Edward Lee Thorndike really took a toll on me. Then, everything changed. A man walked right through the doorway of our Grade 4 room at the beginning of the school year. From then on, he started not to teach, instead, he started to care. He became the model that each of us in the class look up to until now, and we really wanted to be like him. He was the epitome of how a citizen should be. He is a teacher.

For me, a teacher and the teaching process should enable the child to unlock her/his full potential, develop innate skills, and organize situations and learning experiences that will assist in effective learning. To do so, rigid planning of suited learning experiences and pedagogies should be ensured. This comes especially in teaching social studies where sensitive issues are discussed.

I also believe that learners learn best when they realize the importance in real life of what they are being taught. Learning situations should also be in the context and realms of the learners' environment. Teachers should also develop or use materials that the learners are familiar with. These tasks enhance the motivation of the learners, thus alleviating the pressure in the teaching and learning process.

It should also be our responsibility to equip ourselves with 21st century skills to be able to cope up with the ever-changing trends in education. We should not shy away from opportunities and endeavors that result to personal development such as attending to seminars and enrolling to graduate studies. By doing these, we are not only providing learning experiences to the learners. We are giving them memories to cherish and ponder from.

Again, why am I in the teaching field? It is not about the remuneration that keeps the passion burning. It is the desire to somehow contribute and be key to someone's success. We hope that our learners will similarly contribute to others' learning. Lastly, teaching provides the chance to change the future. We teachers really affect eternity. We will never know when our influences and teachings end.

MY PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

Maria Rosario Miladiey Capendit
Marcelino R. Veloso National High School

“Teaching is an Art.” In each lesson, each student is a new canvas and we are creating a new masterpiece in every encounter with a student.

A “TRUE TEACHER” has the ability to make each and every student shine.

Everybody “Can”, we all learn in a different ways and at difference paces. As Albert Einstein is believed to have said: “Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.”

Effective learning takes place in an environment

- where students feel loved;
- where students feel at home;
- where students feel respect;
- where students feel important; and
- where students feel safe.

It is important to show our students that we “BELIEVE IN THEM.”

We can “Make a Difference” in the life of every single student that enters our classroom.

I believe that education is an individual, unique experience for every student. In order for children to benefit from what schools offer, I think that teachers must fully understand the importance of their job. First, I believe that teachers must consider teaching to be a lifestyle, not a mere 40 hour-a-week job, because a teacher's goals for his/her students encompass much more than relaying facts to passive students. As professionals entrusted to educate young minds, teachers must facilitate learning and growth academically, personally, and ethically. By providing quality education to each individual, a teacher equips children with the tools necessary for success in life.

In order to accomplish these goals, I think it is important first to establish a mutually respectful, honest rapport with students —a relationship in which communication is of the highest priority. Through this relationship, a fair, democratic environment based on trust and caring can be established in the classroom, making it possible to interact confidently and safely in an academic setting. Once this foundation is established, the educator has already accomplished major goals: equality, openness, honest communication, and trust. Demonstrating also ethically correct behaviors in the classroom, and expecting students to model these behaviors, prepares them for adult interaction and survival in the future.

Academic learning must begin with motivation and inspiration. Students deserve an educator's passion for both the subject at hand and for learning. Teaching and learning become a simultaneous journey for both the teacher and students when students' energy is aroused by a teacher's genuine energy for learning. To achieve active learning, a teacher must demonstrate enthusiasm and express confidence in students' abilities to learn and to be successful. Employing constructivist methods of teaching in one's classroom forces students to take an active role in their education by making choices and assuming responsibility for intelligent inquiry and discovery. For instance, discussions, projects, and experiments

ensure student achievement and allow students and the teacher to discover individual student's preferences and strengths. This approach facilitates differentiated activities for each student's distinctive ambitions, making the subject more relevant to every student's life.

Personal growth is accomplished when a teacher adopts a mentoring role. Displaying warmth and compassion shows students that teachers love them and are empathic, feeling human beings. One-on-one mentoring involves personal conversations about goals, and taking time to share ideas and experiences. To be a mentor to every student, a teacher must project positivity, exhibit flexibility and confidence, set high expectations for oneself, and demonstrate fairness and consistency. In doing so, students can see appropriate adult behaviors first-hand and begin to emulate them as they mature.

I believe that all children have the ability to learn and the right to a quality education. All youths, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, and capabilities should have the opportunity to learn from professional, well-informed teachers who are knowledgeable in their area of expertise and in life. Certainly, every child has different learning styles and aptitudes; however, by having a personal relationship with every student, a teacher can give each an equal chance of success. By recognizing every student's potential and having separate, individual goals for each, a teacher can accommodate personal needs and abilities and encourage the pursuit of academic aspirations.

I think that teaching and learning are a reciprocal processes. When teachers nurture individual talents in each child, educators can build self-esteem and may encourage a lifelong skill. By supporting these special abilities, teachers can, for example, guide students' research. Students can, in turn, enlighten teachers about subjects in which they may not be as knowledgeable. This mutual respect for individual skills cultivates a professional academic relationship, leading to a give-and-take alliance. This liaison allows students to feel that they are on equal intellectual ground with their teachers, helping create a strong academic atmosphere.

In addition to having a reciprocal relationship with one's students, it is vitally important for teachers to form partnerships with fellow educators. Solid communication among teachers will promote the sharing of ideas and methods and provide a network of support. By working as an educational team, teachers will continue to develop their craft and give the best education possible to their students.

In choosing to become a teacher, I have made the commitment to myself and my future students to be the best academic, personal, and ethical role model I can be. It is my goal to have a mutually enriching teaching career by keeping an open mind and continually communicating with my peers and students. I am prepared to rise to the challenges of teaching in the 21st century, promising to try providing honest, well-rounded education to every student I encounter.

MY PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

Fabie M. Pasilan
Aplaya National High School

In making a difference at what we do, inner motivation is an important element. Teaching in itself is a calling. It entails unparalleled commitment and dedication, without which teaching becomes a struggle. For years, I tried my best to contribute something that would benefit the school community. At first, I have no plans of being in the teaching profession but for some reason, I ended up being a teacher. I learned to embrace the ideals of teaching, one of which is to be an instrument of societal transformation in my humble ways. Watching your students learn from you is incomparable. Seeing them succeed in their endeavors provides a sense of completeness and fulfillment. As a teacher, I believe that our actions must reflect our teaching principles. Such is the truest sense and purpose of teaching.

Being a part of a profession reputed as the noblest of all, demands selfless service to society. When viewed from a personal perspective, it matters a lot when we reflect and realize that our ephemeral existence must not only be confined to a worldly and boring routine, rather we have to exist to serve a bigger purpose. Teaching is not only a "bread and butter" stuff but an instrument to make a change, no matter how small, by awakening young minds of their essential role in their family and society. With this, it is our responsibility to cultivate their holistic well-being thus creating an accountable, and law-abiding citizen necessary in forming a strong foundation for nation-building.

As social studies teachers, we can utilize several options on how to provide awareness to students relative to history, contemporary issues, etc. It must, however, reflect the exact purpose of why we are where we are. In the course of our endeavor, we have to harmonize our words and actions. We have to live up to the ideals of teaching social studies by promoting the desired competencies that we want our students to be imbued with. It is our responsibility to produce students who imbibed the core values of education— *"Maka-Diyos, Makatao, Maka-kalikasan, Makabansa"* —at all costs. Additionally, before facing students daily, we have to prepare loads of knowledge to make them realize that the country's future lies in them. It is incumbent that we have gained their respect so that rapport and openness between us are established. But more importantly, it is a must that we transform some, if not all our students, into active members of the community. Being active means tackling social issues and taking actions that observe adherence to due process when their democratic rights are disrespected.

One of the essential dimensions in achieving our purpose as a teacher is to anchor our actions to the VMGs of the institution. When leading a particular project or supervising our colleagues, a climate of trust and respect must be established since it serves as part of the blueprint as to where the institution is going. Gone are the days of the individualistic approach to accomplishing any endeavor. In the context of the present educational setting, collaboration is crucial. Heavy and complicated tasks become lighter when the culture of teamwork and accountability is exercised. As such, this is one of the best practices that will certainly create a dent in enhancing our craft. This will not only help us grow professionally but also enables us to contribute to the professional development of our colleagues. Eventually, collaboration by everyone will be translated into tangible positive changes and accomplishments of the institution.

Teaching is a vital and a very important profession, without which no other professions can exist. Vital in the sense that a teacher must be knowledgeable in every lesson that he needs to tackle in the day-to-day learning experience of students. Different perspectives must be utilized in teaching the subject so that students will have the opportunity to decide for themselves as to what ideas they are going to absorb

that conforms to beliefs and values. Teaching should be an instrument for students to be creative and critical thinkers. It must enable them to be critical of the issues in the society that directly or indirectly affect them and not just passive onlookers.

For learning to transpire, a teacher must establish her/his rules and expectations. Likewise, you need to gain the respect and trust of students. I can be autocratic at times, but I am considerate. I always emphasize to my students that we have to abide by the house rules at all times. We can be friends outside the classroom setting but once we are inside the class, there is that wall that separates us. I'll do my responsibility and they must do theirs to help their family, themselves, and society in the future. Once this is done, learning will eventually transpire. I believe that learning is the ability to produce concrete results coming from the knowledge they gained from the learning experience. These results are relevant and useful to their lives and as such, the real-life applications of theories, concepts, and ideas they acquired from our learning engagements. In addition, learning is also the ability of students to recognize their mistakes and be able to amend them by being accountable and responsible for their actions. Realizing that in every decision they do, repercussions may arise – will enable them to face the reality of life that they have to accept throughout their existence. And that what happens next will depend on how they take the results: will they face it and rise to the occasion, or will they just look the other way? This will also manifest in how they react to certain issues in society. Learning, therefore, is the ability to utilize knowledge for its real-life purpose and being responsible for the consequences of one's action.

Seeing my students succeed in what they do is my ultimate goal in life as a teacher. It doesn't matter if they accomplished greater things or the other way around. What matters the most is that they are accountable, and morally upright citizens of the community who understand the history of their country from different perspectives, aware of the existing issues of the society and the significant role they play in eradicating if not overcoming them. Such is the paramount goal I have for my students. Attaining this goal however is not just a walk in the park, but it is what it is. As a social studies teacher, it is one of the thrusts of education placed upon our shoulders. We have to continue the pursuit of creating members of society who will contribute something for the benefit of their fellowmen.

In realizing my teaching philosophy, I have to admit certain realities that I'll be facing obstacles that are beyond my control which may push me to my limits to do what I intend to do. To keep on track, I need to have this inner reflection from time to time —checking if I am still keeping up with my work beliefs and values, otherwise, I need to get back on the right path and renew my commitment and dedication to my teaching principles. It demands also that I have to restore my inner motivation, to keep that inner push to do well without expecting anything in return other than a sense of self-fulfillment. When it comes to teaching, I shall continue to impart knowledge not only needed for their academic achievement but more so for their application in real life. I should be consistent in preparing the minds of the young through the search for answers to everything taught in the class and its implication in the real world.

Education is a lifelong process. Hence, a teacher's life should be focused on honing oneself for the betterment of his craft. I believe that teachers have to be multi-faceted. Being one, he can customize his acquired knowledge into something that can fit in almost all situations that when cascaded to students, they will perform better. Professional development is one of the significant elements of teaching. It can be acquired through training, but I firmly believe that it can be enhanced through practice and the "Do-It-Yourself" approach through self-training, intensive research of approaches and methods on how to improve our profession, and putting them into practice.

Highlighting all the salient components relative to teaching philosophy, one aspect that needs to be considered is the learning environment. For learning to occur, the classroom setting has to be conducive, positive discipline is observed, and the existing house rules are clear to the students. If possible, at the beginning of the class everyone including the teacher needs to have a signed pledge of commitment to pursue the "be-all and end-all" of the teaching-learning process and that is for the students to gain the desired learning competencies that can be employed throughout into real-life applications. The school must have the attribute of a "second home" to students, a second home that is different from theirs yet manifests the aura of acceptance, respect, and love. This is where learning starts to take off and as all teachers do, so do I. Needless to say, I am willing to relearn and learn new things that will improve my craft as a teacher.

MY PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

Jacqueline Bautista Vidal
Agusan National High School

My example of the greatest human teacher ever lived was Jesus Christ whose knowledge was beyond what any human could possibly attain. I am inspired of Jesus' being a great teacher because of His love to mankind. Just as Jesus was sent by the Father to teach the truth and bring people closer to God, with all humility, so I am following His footsteps. I will use my time wisely to inspire and motivate students to realize and exceed their potentials, to inspire and empower them, to achieve great things, and to become a good human being who fear and honor the Lord.

Learning is a continuous process of acquiring knowledge, abilities and skills. and to mold behavior into a better human being that fears the Lord. Learning should be fun and engaging. It must be student centered, meaning the welfare and the distinct learning needs, interests, aspirations, cultural background of students must be considered. Not all students learn in the same manner. Everyone learns at their own pace. Thus, learning generally becomes more effective if it is based on direct experiences or by participating directly in an activity which produces more usable and vivid knowledge.

Goal setting is a plan that guides the student towards a goal. A well-set goal is to help the students know what they want to achieve. Teach them proper goal setting techniques so that students can focus their efforts appropriately, effectively manage their time and see the positive results of their work. One of the best models for me is George T. Doran's S.M.A.R.T. Goals and Objectives. It exists in a variety of forms and does not have a definitive meaning. In fact, words within the acronym have changed over time. The fundamental ideas are Specific- goals must be precise and explicit; Measurable - measure students' progress; Achievable -motivate students to push even harder and see to it how realistic is to attain the goal; Relevant - ask the students if their goal really matters and lead them to their ultimate vision; and Time-Bound - must have deadline to stay focus and make progress in achieving the goal.

An implementation plan is important for teachers to complete a strategic initiative and achieve our goals as teachers. My first objective is to be knowledgeable with technological tools, thus I will continue develop proficiency in technology that supports instructions through the internet, workshops and ongoing tech updates. Second, is to enhance my skills in administering data to appropriately plan for intervention to improve student learning. I need to attend webinars and workshops for upskilling. I will promote collaboration among colleagues to cater the needs of our students. I will also assist them by mentoring and sharing knowledge, teaching strategies and materials. I will also share what I will learn from the Democracy Certificate Program for them to be updated especially incorporating digital literacy in teaching Social Science.

Professional development goals lead us to self-improvement. This is to improve our skills and better serve the changing needs of our students. The role of the teacher has so many dimensions and many times we are stressed out. To make ourselves and our careers better, it is good to set professional development goals not only to uplift teachers but to help students also. To avoid burnout, I see to it that I balance my work and personal life. I give time for physical exercise to strengthen my body. I believe that movement melts away stress. Integrate tech tools in the discussion especially during this distance learning modality. Involve parents more in their children's education. Encourage parents to track their children's performance. Cultivate relationships with colleagues who are my mentors and friends. Make learning

more fun for students by introducing game in the discussion. Lastly, self-reflection by starting a journal upon each lesson. This will lead me to full understanding of my teaching career.

A positive environment is one in which students feel a sense of belonging, trust others and feel encouraged to tackle challenges, take risks and asks questions (Bucholz & Sheffler, 2009). Such an environment provides relevant content, clear learning goals and feedback, opportunities to build social skills, and strategies to help student succeed (Weimer, 2009). If not addressed properly, the learning environment will not be good.

Learning has changed during this pandemic. School leaders, teachers and families are still in quandary of how they will be able to educate students in the age of Covid-19. Physical condition of learning spaces is relevant. Good ventilation and air quality, comfortable temperature and pleasant lighting will all improve student physical health and academic performance. Parents also with kids learning online must consider their children's learning spaces. It must be inspiring and should maintain focus, to have good impact on emotions and mood. It is worthwhile to consider the condition of learning spaces whether in a school building or at home as essential factor in student's physical and emotional well-being which can effect students' achievement.

A good teacher must follow what God has instructed them to do and that is to bring every student closer to God. To recognize God as the Wise Counselor, the Way, the Truth and the Life. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing young children acknowledge God as the Supreme Being. As teachers, we also need to pray for our students to make outstanding leaders and imitators of God's Mercy.

MY PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

Jenny C. Mangawang
City of Balanga National High School

My experience is maybe much the same with experiences of many teachers: habitual cutting classes, chronic tardiness and absenteeism of students, or even the boisterous play of boys and girls. Those were some of the remnants from face-to-face classes. But now, we are confronting a bigger challenge: technology. Teaching online classes is beyond my parameters. Meeting my students virtually seems foreign to me. Yet, no words can describe how colorful and meaningful my life has been as a teacher.

For almost a decade, my students were socially challenged. Some of them were marijuana users. Boys and girls were gang members. I also had a student who was sexually molested by her own father. I even experienced that while I had a serious conversation, a boy reacted with violent aversion.

I found out that this child was physically abused by his lolo and papa. I once asked him, "*Kaya ba ganyan katigas ang ulo mo ay dahil sinasaktan ka nila? O kaya ka nila sinasaktan ay dahil ganyan katigas ang ulo mo?*" He just shrugged his shoulders. When I looked into his eyes, I saw a confused child longing for love. For a moment, I went still. He was like a coated chocolate, hard outside but soft inside.

In reality, they were not problem students but rather, students with problems. They had a house but not a home. They had a rebellious temper, but in fact all they needed was sincere care and love. They suffered a lot at a very young age.

Whenever I see no hope in their eyes, I lift their spirits by saying this, "*Pagmasdan ninyo ang isang paruparo. Maaaliw kayo sa makulay niyang pakpak at banayad na paglipad. Subalit bago siya naging isang magandang paruparo, isa muna siyang caterpillar na nagsisikap gumapang para hindi matapakan at magpatuloy sa buhay. May isa ring tagpo na kailangan niyang manatili sa kanyang cocoon at dumaan sa yugto ng pagbabago para maging isang ganap na paruparo. Ganoon din kayo. Kahit gaano kahirap ang inyong pinagdadaanan, kailangan ninyong pumasok sa paaralan na magsisilbi ninyong cocoon para doon kayo hubugin. Upang sa takdang panahon, maging ganap ang inyong mga pangarap.*"

I keep on saying these words countless times because I wanted them to bear in mind that struggling is an important part of their growth experiences. Struggles make them understand that they can make it through their lives.

But then, there were times when I wallowed in my bitterness and succumbed to my own problems. My students became my tower of strength. They gave me courage not to give up, especially on them. They made me feel that even if the world did not believe in me, they believed in me. Like me, they could give unconditional love and genuine concern. And no matter how hard the undertaking was, we stayed together as a family.

Whenever I look back at the past, I am still wondering how my students changed my life completely. I taught them history, they taught me how to live my life meaningfully. They made me see the world in another way as a friend, a confidant, and a mother who is willing and will always be willing to sacrifice tremendously.

As a teacher with a mother's heart, I want to give everything to them. But I cannot give what I do not have. So, I am continuously equipping myself with knowledge and embracing the demands of the 21st century. I keep on seizing every opportunity to abreast myself with challenges of this new era despite of many uncertainties because I want my teachings to be echoed within their souls.

Students come and go. Nonetheless, I know I have touched their lives and I will always tell them that they have touched my life too. My experiences with them are now the essential elements in a grandiose design of my journey here on earth. When the time comes that I have to face our Creator, I can truly say, "Lord, thank You for this great masterpiece...my life as a teacher".

MY PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

Maximo R. Embodo
Tacul Agricultural High School

I remember the story 'A Tale in Heaven' by an unknown author. It ran through that St. Peter went into another screening of souls who should be admitted to the firmaments of heaven. The first was a doctor who narrated that he cured sick people including celebrities and political figures. Next was an engineer, followed by a lawyer who boastfully invoked their glorious days while on earth. But the hard-to-please St. Peter seemingly was never convinced until the fourth soul, the teacher came in. When St. Peter asked, the teacher remarked: 'I taught all the souls who came before me including the doctors, lawyers and engineers.' This time St. Peter knew, who among the souls was the most deserving, the teacher!

The story amplifies a heaven-to-earth idealism of a teacher and teaching as his/her profession. Here, we can tell that teaching is a herculean task. It takes all its powers to educate a child. From the cognitive aspect all the way to psychomotor and affective domains are the foci in a child to grow holistically. Here, I can say, teaching is practically a selfless vocation of a teacher because it entails genuine service for the whole of humanity.

With the idea of teaching, learning is indispensable. As for learning, I believe, there is no shortcut in learning. It is achieved through drive and effort, making one propelled to find ways to learn. Therefore, learning is controlled by the learners themselves. For me, this way of thinking about learning is equated to total and personal student engagement in the process of learning. Besides drive and effort, it entails willingness and desire to participate in any learning endeavor. When learning occurs, learners take pride because they own it. This level of success may not only be indicated by good grades but the understanding and the internalization of the materials when applied to life makes it more passionate.

The concepts of teaching and learning are gained through the preparation of 'wanna-be teachers' and teaching professionals. Teaching and learning predate from his/her preservice education until s/he steps on the ground of actual practice of teaching as a profession. Practically, all these preparations boil down to the effort which is to mold the individuals whom our forebears passionately called as the future of a country, the learners. If I may say, to what for is the hard-earned degree if all the toils including the academic preparation and economic struggles cannot be translated into learning as a benefit for the students.

As a teacher, my goals for the students are those ones that are reflected in the K-to-12 curriculum. As a social studies teacher, I always consider the ultimate goal of *Araling Panlipunan* a guiding light in my day-to-day teaching routines. If I may state it, in Filipino: *Makahubog ng mamamayang mapanuri, mapagnilay, mapanagutan, produktibo, makalikasan, makabansa at makatao na may pambansa at pandaigdigang pananaw at pagpapahalaga sa mga usapin sa lipunan, sa nakaraan, kasalukuyan at sa hinaharap*. Looking into this goal, we can see an individual whose patriotism is zealous and one who could bring forth genuine change in the country.

Teaching and learning schemes and their relevance to the learners are no magic. These schemes are scientific. It follows methods and several plans how are goals of teaching be carried out to effect changes in the lives of the learners. So much problems are there in the classroom where teaching and learning are best tested. These problems encompass both administrative and curriculum and instruction

aspect where teaching and learning are a part. For me, one plan in order to fast forward the implementation of all these visions is to conduct action research relative to teaching and learning issues that are happening inside the classroom. Having served the Department of Education for more than a decade, I consider research a way to answer deep-seated classroom challenges in curriculum and instruction. Like medical doctors, teachers need to unfold causes why there are few students who cannot read, for example, and find a solution to a prevailing problem. Implement or use research-based teaching strategies in the classroom is another. While we do not undermine the local initiative of the teachers, nevertheless, well-studied strategies have undergone processes, hence, they yield valid and more reliable results. Recently, an evaluation of school-based management (SBM) practices went underway. Here, teachers have realized how practical and relevant findings are for the teaching and learning practices in the school. Thus, the third plan is to help the school administration sustain the goals of SBM which is developing all the learners. As for myself professionally, I gear up to upgrade myself in terms of the rapid digitization both in teaching and learning to be more relevant. I cannot lag behind. Participate in the programs that promote students' engagement is another development plan. Moreover, I wish to pursue graduate studies to keep me updated about the changes and the development in education.

Finally, the learning environment provides a major consideration. Besides the physical environment where learners usually engage with different learning tasks, it is more important to create and promote a democratic atmosphere which fosters freedom of expression and healthy exchanges of ideas. It is very important to look into the kind of learning environment as a platform of freely exchanging ideas that are respected by and among others.

MY PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

Ferdinand M. Villanueva
Capas National High School

“What is a teacher? I'll tell you: it isn't someone who teaches something, but someone who inspires the student to give of her best in order to discover what she already knows.”

— Paulo Coelho, the Witch of Portobello

The teaching profession requires a lot of patience, intelligence, passion and dedication. Dealing with children can be very stressful and challenging. A single mistake could ruin a child's future. Teaching may not be as lucrative and satisfying for a lot of people, but as a teacher I considered it to be the noblest.

Every teacher wants to be a good teacher, and I dream to become one, but who is a good teacher? What are the characteristics of a good teacher? And how can we become a good teacher? How can we inspire our students? How can we touch their lives and make a difference?

Hunbbel Meer, a writer and a teacher from Karachi, Pakistan, identified the Top Seven Characteristics and Qualities of a Good Teacher:

1. Friendly and Congenial - the most important characteristic of a good teacher can have is to be friendly and congenial with his students. It is a plus point for a teacher if his students can share their problems with him, without being afraid or hesitant
2. Personality - a good teacher has a very good personality; there is no second thought about it. Students always get attracted to teachers with good personality and characteristics which leads to better communication, understanding and ultimately good results. Everyone can have a good, decent, likable and presentable personality. Just dress sensibly good, smell good, and be a little gentle and kind.
3. Knowledge and Teacher's Education - another important characteristic of a good teacher is his knowledge and own education. As there is a saying that 'a teacher is only as good as his knowledge is'. After all, he is doing a teacher's job, which is to teach. If he himself lacks in the knowledge of a certain subject that he teaches, he is never going to make a name for himself as a good teacher. So, sign up with only that subject which you have really good expertise; and it is a moral duty of every teacher too. Otherwise, it is not worth it.
4. A Good Communicator - one of the very important characteristics of a good teacher is his communication skills. He should be a very good speaker. This characteristic will benefit a teacher in several ways. For example: a) If his communication skills are good, he can convey his lectures with better skill and result.; b) If a teacher is a good speaker, his class strength increases automatically. People love to hear a person who he can speak well enough. There is always a shortage of good speakers in the world.
5. A Good Listener - apart from being a good communicator, a good teacher should also have the characteristic of being an even better listener. As there is Turkish proverb: "If speaking is silver; then listening is gold." Remember, a good listener will always have many friends and

fans. Because people do not want to hear every time, they need persons who can listen to them as well. And when a good teacher develops this patient quality in himself, he starts to become a great teacher.

6. Good sense of humor - A good teacher should also have the quality and characteristic of having a good sense of humor. It is a logical fact, that a person generally teaches the next generation and as they are younger than the teacher, they are expected to have more fun in the class too. So, a good teacher is the one who can cope up with his sense of humor, and with his strong communication skills and personality, can also maintain the discipline of the class.
7. Be Kind – this is one important characteristic of a good teacher that one should have as among her/his qualities. S/he should be a gentle, kind, chivalrous and a benevolent person. Students should love him, and when they do love him, they idolize him. Then ultimately, they will respect him, will do his homework and eventually will bring greater outputs and results.

These enumerated qualities I think are necessary for me and all teachers out there for us to INSPIRE, TOUCH LIVES and MAKE A DIFFERENCE, which I truly believe is the essence of a TEACHER. These serves as my guiding principles for me to become an efficient and effective mentor to all the learners entrusted to me.

Lastly let's be guided with Forest Witcraft inspiring quote on teachers;

"A hundred years from now, it will not matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much money I had in the bank...but the world may be a better place because I made a difference in the life of a child."