

### Teaching Philosophy

I believe that students learn in different ways, that a class should be enjoyable, that standards should be high, and that it is my responsibility to prepare my students for higher education and the work force.

While in college I noticed that some students succeeded easily, while other students struggled to succeed. Some students were not prepared for the note taking and constant lecture found in many college classes. Other students had a difficult time dealing with group projects and the interaction and codependence required. Some students were book-smart, while others needed more hands-on work. I noticed the same thing in the workplace.

Some workers learned best on their own, reading manuals, while others needed “to do.” It became evident that, as learners, we all have our strengths and weaknesses and this knowledge is important. I have learned that I must teach to the strengths of my students in order for them to learn. By using various ways of teaching, such as group work, manipulatives, lecture, and multi-media I can reach and teach more students. I feel that classes should be structured and controlled, but they should always be enjoyable. Even when the material is difficult and challenging, as a teacher, I need to make the material seem less like work and more like a puzzle. I do believe in rewarding my students and giving them hard earned “breaks.” Whether it is an assignment on a topic of their choice or a field trip to a software company, there should be some reward. I do believe a sense of humor is important to making a class enjoyable, and although I consider Web Page Design and Computer Programming serious, relevant subjects, I understand that there should always be a balance between work and play.

I believe that standards should be high and that students learn more by being challenged. One of my favorite quotes is, “Those who aim for the moon and fail land on top of the trees. Those who aim for the top of the trees, never get off the ground.” I want my students to understand that setting high goals will take them further. I want them to learn that they will not always succeed, but they must try for they will be better for the effort. This of course must be balanced with their abilities, but the overall plan is to challenge them and facilitate their success.

Finally, I believe it is my responsibility to prepare my students for higher education and the workforce. I need to teach them the skills necessary to learn at a higher level, and I will expose them to and tell them what to expect. Although I want a higher education for my students, I must also prepare them to succeed in the workplace immediately after high school. I will do this by keeping current in the technologies and business skills that are in use. I believe that I need to emphasis communication skills, not just technical skills. I plan on including writing activities in my classes. It is my responsibility to help my students develop their weak areas so they can succeed. The bottom line is that I succeed when they succeed. I like to say that I am upgrading the world one student at a time.