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My Mission Statement

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My Mission Statement

Hardly anything is finite anymore. A century ago, children might aspire to be a good farmer or daring seaman, if they were male, or a god-fearing mother, if a female. The twentieth century was witness to exponential explosions in the development and use of technology. Mankind took flight, and went to the Moon; conquered uncharted sea floors, and made extraordinary advances in science and medicine. In my own lifetime, I have witnessed the advent of jet propulsion in transportation, and the use of lasers in both medicine and war. The world has shrunk in terms of time and travel. Communication evolved from telephone operator intercession to wireless e-mail. There is next to nothing in existence that can not be explored in one form or another via computer within mere seconds of elapsed time from idea to discovery.

My mission as an educator is to promote a yearning for learning in my students. Too many of them seem intimidated by one aspect of required curricula or another. Math phobia can be debilitating, especially in the fundamental learning stages. The more complex our world becomes, the more important a firm grasp of basic mathematic skills becomes. The inability to express oneself logically, either in writing or speaking, could result in a false impression by a prospective employer. And a basic understanding of where we came from as a culturally mixed society becomes equally important the more diverse our world becomes and the more demanding and complex the workplace aspires to be. As a Special Education teacher, I have the unique opportunity to influence all aspects of my students learning. It is my job to provide whatever modification or accommodation may be necessary for a given student to master the basic concepts required by law as well as meet the expectations spelled out in his or her Individual Education Plan. This requires considerable collaboration among teachers, communication with special needs providers, and a good working relationship with the student and respective parent(s). My mission statement, therefore, is as follows:

My mission is to provide choices and strategies to students empowering them to define personal goals and objectives for attaining their potential as informed responsible citizens. As an educator, I will encourage students to focus on their academic priorities enabling them to pursue success as an active lifelong learner. I will continuously endeavor to establish positive relationships with my students, and teacher colleagues, and encourage parents to be cooperative participating partners in their children's education. In an effort to stay abreast of rapidly changing technology and evolving curricula, I will seek out and attend meaningful staff development which promotes and supports the belief that all students can learn.

There is virtually no limit to what the next generation of humans will see during their lifespan. At the rate new technology becomes obsolete, the “*sky is the limit*” thinking is too restrictive. A universe of information is already available a mouse click away. Ten years ago kilobytes and megabytes seemed like a lot – today the gigabyte is about to be nudged to the side to let something more awe inspiring take its place on the status board.

I want my students to understand that the human mind is capable of conceiving some fabulous stuff. There are things to be invented that haven't even been dreamed of yet. All it takes is an idea and something new stares at us from the racks at the checkout line – and even those are being overcome by advancements in technology. Anytime you think there is nothing new under the sun, walk through a major hardware store – gidgey-gadgets everywhere! I'm not sure who coined the old line, *necessity is the mother of invention*, but it works now as well as before. Thomas Alva Edison, however, once remarked, “To invent, you need a good imagination and pile of junk.” I hope to instill imagination in my students and encourage them to build upon whatever junk they have lying around.

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