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### What's My Educational Philosophy?

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." - Aristotle.

My interpretation of the quote is that education should help shape our values, empathy, compassion, and emotional well-being rather than focusing solely on educating the mind. Learning isn't only about what we know academically, it's also about knowing who we are as individuals and gaining social-emotional awareness. This holistic approach to education allows teachers to educate academically and help students understand their character. Teachers should support students in meaningful ways that support their development and overall well-being.

I believe that emotional growth (SEL) is just as important as academic growth. In my classroom, I will create an environment where students feel supported and valued by myself and their classmates. At the beginning of the school year, I will get my students to develop a list of things that create a positive learning environment, including how students wish to be treated. Once the list is developed, it will be hung on the wall until December break. We will reflect on the list when needed and we will write an updated list in January. This activity encourages how we treat ourselves and others around the classroom. I will also participate in daily check-ins focusing on students' overall well-being. This daily activity helps students feel seen and understood and creates a classroom environment where emotional well-being is supported.

I will encourage teamwork, collaboration, and kindness, as working together helps students build trust, empathy, and connection. Each morning, students will be randomly placed next to a different person than the day before. For the first ten minutes of class, students will participate in a task that gets students to communicate and work together. This daily routine supports critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and the development of social skills like communication and problem-solving. By focusing on the mind and the heart, I hope to create a space where students feel safe, motivated, and emotionally and academically supported.