

Educational Philosophy

-Michael Karlin-

First and foremost I believe every child, regardless of race, class, religion, sexual orientation, ability level, or any other factor deserves the best from our education system, and it is my role as an educator to act as an advocate for my students and ensure that happens. The lessons a student learns in school, not just from the content of classes, but from daily occurrences and interactions, will in large part set the stage for the adult that student will grow in to. Because of this, teachers must be more than disseminators of content, they must be role models, and as such teachers must constantly strive to make their classroom and school a place where acceptance and respect are rigorously promoted.

More specifically, I believe science education holds a special place in the needs of today's students. Science teaches you to ask questions about the world around you; not to blindly accept truths but to search and analyze and find out answers for yourself. So much of a student's life is made up of following directions and memorizing facts which, unfortunately, is often the case in science classes as well. But science should be about discovering, about engaging a student's natural curiosity and using that to explore questions, design experiments, and develop conclusions. While creating a science classroom following these ideals is certainly a challenge, it is not impossible, and I believe it is only when students learn to become engaged, questioning, and active members of society can a science teacher consider himself to be truly successful.