MY EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY
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Beliefs

 A great educational leader starts from within. The drive to want to share beliefs and guide others in the same direction is crucial to being a great educational leader. A great leader wants to motivate and inspire others to achieve their best success. Others want to follow a leader that has the life experiences and has integrity. A great educational leader is someone that has the personality that is likable and well respected by others. To earn this, the leader must be willing to listen to other opinions and take them into account when making decisions. Building relationships with the staff in their building is extremely important. These strong relationships help develop a great leader. They allow the staff to trust their leader and they feel represented by them. A good leader makes their staff, students in their building, and parents of the community feel like they are being advocated for in every decision. I believe that educational leaders can determine the atmosphere of their entire building. A leader that cares about their staff, students, and parents will make the greatest impact.

 I believe that I will be a transformational leader because my beliefs in leadership align with that leadership style. I am the leader that inspires others to reach our shared vision by positivity, guidance, listening to others, and being motivational. My infectious personality spreads to whoever and wherever I am. As a leader in a building, I will establish a culture where all staff can be themselves. I will be my genuine, authentic self in hopes to inspire others to be so as well. I am also a leader that can get serious when situations need to be and have a transactional leadership style when others need more guidance.

 My beliefs have been influenced by my experiences as a teacher. I realized how ineffective a leader can be if they do not build relationships with everyone in their building. As a leader it is important to gain the respect of the staff in the building. A great leader has a staff that trusts the decisions that are being made. Hebert is a great influence on my leadership beliefs. In her book, The Boss of the Whole School, she breaks down what it is like to be an effective leader. I hope to make a difference in the community that I lead. I will make a difference in the learning environment that I work for and advocate for the students, parents, and staff of my building. This will develop a building that has students achieving more academic and social success than was ever thought possible. As an educational leader, I will make a difference in the lives of little ones who will one day change the world we live in. I will inspire students to become leaders of change, and they will one day take on this world and be the difference that it needs. Also, I will make an impact on the teachers that I am guiding, leading, and inspiring.

Educational Leadership Initiatives

 As a current teacher, I aspire to be a leader in the building that I teach at by one day taking on a leadership role such as being the principal or assistant principal. Currently, I am already working on being a leader within the community that I work for now. I am on the Math Curriculum Council. This council makes curriculum decisions. As a leader, it is important to understand the curriculum the teachers are expected to teacher. I am working on adjusting this curriculum so that it is best adapted to the teachers and the students. I am also leading students in Student Council, being on the leadership team, and assisting my principal when I can.

 Other ways that I have already become a leader in my current position is by building relationships with the students in my classroom and their parents. This allows me to be a great leader within the classroom. The students respect me, and the parents trust me to teach their children. In the book, Leading Change in your School, “culture is reflected in the behavior, attitudes, and beliefs of individuals and groups.” (Reeves, 2009, p. 37). In my classroom, I have already established a learning environment where students feel that they are safe. Building this culture in the classroom created positive behaviors, discussions, and great attitudes. I am leading students who will one day be the greatest leaders in the world. Great leaders start right in the classroom. As a teacher who wants to inspire change, being a leader in the classroom is where it all begins.

Impact and Influence

 I have already made a difference in all the students that I have taught. I have had many students come back to me and say that they loved being in my class and they loved how much I believed in them. I have also made a huge impact on those teachers around me. My mentors have shared how my ideas have had a great impact on the teaching and learning happening in our building. According to the article *What Makes a Great Educational Leader,* “A strong leader pushes through and knows that these obstacles will be overcome. More importantly, they communicate this to the school community and inspire everyone they lead to operate under the same belief” (Lynch, 2020). As a leader in the classroom and throughout the school, it has always been important to establish a positive mindset. The students need to believe in themselves if they want to succeed in life. As their teacher, I work towards creating a positive classroom environment where all students feel that they can achieve anything that they put their minds to. As well as creating a bond with the students, I also strive to create great bonds with all teachers in the school. It is my goal to help create a school culture where everyone looks to me for a mood booster, a smile, or some advice.

 According to *What Make an Effective Leader in Education,* “A leader can transform a school or community for the better and ensure success for both students and educators.” (University of Kansas, 2021). As an effective leader in the classroom and in the school that I work for, I am constantly working on ways that can better ways that can better the students and the school. There are always new and better ways of doing things, and I am always willing to try it. I want to ensure the best success of the students in my classroom and throughout the school.

 Lastly, I have worked hard getting to know the administration in my building. I have established a positive relationship with them. According to the article, *Teacher Leadership:*

*Leading the Way to Effective Teaching and Learning,* “Teacher leadership is key to present-day teaching effectiveness and a healthy future for the teaching profession” (Berry, 2010). As a teacher leader there are some great ideas that teachers have that they need to present to administration. It is key to build a relationship with the principal of my building, so that I can share these ideas with them and work towards better improving our school and the community.

Future Aspirations

I am always looking for opportunities to grow and change. There are always new ways of doing things in schools, and better ways. The students are a priority and if there is a better way of achieving academic success then it is best that as a leader, I work towards that. Along with changes, I attend several professional development meetings where I get the chance to learn new ways of teaching. This helps me grow as a teacher and leader as well.

As an educational leader, I hope to one day be the principal of an elementary school and lead that school to great success academically, socially, emotionally, and in all other areas. Eventually, I would like to move to a superintendent of a school district where I can influence great change throughout the entire district. Lastly, I would like to be a part of being a leader at a college and possibly working on the board of Oakland University.

References

