Belief Statement

When I become a teacher, there are many things I hope to achieve when teaching my class. I hope to gain the trust and respect of all of my students and I will guide them and help them to learn and become skilled in a variety of areas. I believe that all teachers should be kind and considerate toward all of their students, but they should also have firmness to their teaching so that they are taken seriously.

Teachers need to be available to their students and be approachable when a student or parent needs to get in touch with them. This is very important when students or parents have a problem or need to discuss their well-being or academic performance in the class. I think that teachers need to be exceptionally flexible as well. Every child has a different way of learning, and teachers will continually confront change each and every day that they teach.

An informed teacher is a knowledgeable teacher. The world is changing very rapidly, and all teachers need to be well educated and continually learning new and useful strategies in order to keep their class up-to-date with today’s society. Teaching is a life long learning process.

I believe that teachers need to keep everything interesting in order to help keep a child’s attention. When kids are having fun with learning, they become interested and absorb a lot more. Teachers need to use an assortment of
techniques everyday when they teach. All children have different ways that they learn best, and a little variety will help everyone.

Teachers need to create a learning community in which all individual differences are respected. By creating diverse teaching styles and addressing the different needs of each student, the teacher can help make the students feel valued for their potential and help them to learn to value one another as well. A teacher can do this by developing a variety of clear, accurate presentations and representations of concepts, using alternative explanations to assist students’ understanding, and presenting diverse perspectives to encourage critical thinking.

Every child is special in their own way. A teacher needs to know each of their student’s strengths and weaknesses in order to help them learn. You must always expect the unexpected out of each of your students, they will always surprise you. When I assess my students, I want to do so in a variety of ways. I will use both formal and informal assessment by observation, written, and oral communication skills. I think it is important to find out what the students already know and what they are understanding in order to determine what you need to teach and how you need to teach them. Assessment is ongoing and will be demonstrated in a variety of ways.

Finding a way to connect school learning to the outside world is key. It gives the students a sense that what they are learning is of relevance. It is important for children to know that school is not a waste of their time and it is a great accomplishment that will help to make them very successful in their many years to come.

When I become a teacher, I am confident that their will be a variety of different situations I am going to encounter, both good and bad. I know at times it will be very overwhelming. I think all teachers have to come to this conclusion at some point and that it is expected. By trying to be fair and sensitive to everyone’s needs, I think teachers can overcome any obstacle. I think teachers have to be both caring and tough to teach. Children will always amaze you, and you never know what you are going to get out of any one student.

Every student just wants to be accepted for who they are. If you believe in all of your students, it will show, and
they will see that. This will help them to believe in themselves and try to become more successful in everything that they do. Everyone wants to have someone that believes in them and I think that this is of great importance to keep in mind everyday that I teach.

Practices

It is my belief that teaching reading and writing to children is by far one of the most important things I will do as a teacher. These are tools that are extremely valuable and will be used everyday for the rest of their lives. Therefore, I think it is important to teach them in such a way that will make it both interesting and enjoyable for the student and implement good reading and writing behaviors throughout their lives. When I begin teaching, I plan on using many techniques and practices to get the students to read and write. Some of these things include reading and writing workshops, guided reading, and literature circle. I also think using the basal is a good tool and will be a helpful guide.

During reading, I plan on having several reading and/or writing stations set up so the students can rotate in groups about every 15-20 minutes. Some of these stations will include guided reading, in which I, as a teacher, will guide them. I would also have stations where the students silent read to themselves or aloud with a partner. I would also want to incorporate any activities or games that I could find to help them become better readers and also have any charts that they could use to help them practice their reading and writing strategies. I would have the groups split up by the level of reading they are at so that the group can have an easier time relating to each other and reading together. They would have book baskets with their level of books in them, along with some easier and more challenging books of their choice. Another thing I want to be sure to do is keep running records or do miscue analysis with my students so I can see their growth throughout the year. I would also chart this on a continuum. I think that backpack reading is also very important because this helps encourage the student to read at home and gets the parents involved as well. I want to be sure to have a diverse classroom library with good
literature to pick from. I think that reading aloud to students is very important because it is both relaxing and enjoyable for them.

When practicing writing in the classroom, I will do this by having the students keep writer's notebooks that they can use to write about a given topic, reflect on a book, or write about something of their choice. I would try to have them write something in their writer's notebook each day. I think that when doing a writing workshop, it is very important to begin by giving a mini-lesson on something that I notice the class needing some guidance or help on. During writing workshop, the students will be writing stories that we will edit and revise and then make a finished product. If students want to read their finish product to the class, they will have that option as well.

When students first begin learning to write, I think that making sure that they write neat and legible is important. I feel that if I enforce neat writing, it will lead to good penmanship over time, so they don't have to keep rewriting things over again. Therefore, practicing writing out their letters neatly and clearly is important to do when they first start learning to write.

When I assess my students, I will do so in multiple ways. I will use written assessment, as well as developmental and self-assessment. I want my students to look forward to reading and writing and have fun with it. I want them to value good literature and enjoy reading and writing. I think that by encouraging my students, even if they are struggling, and have them choose topics to write about or books to read, will make them want to do so more often. I want to make my students feel good about themselves as readers and writers, even if they are moving in small steps, they will feel motivated and want to learn.