

I love the relationships that I develop with my students. That's why I teach. I'm in a unique position, because I teach kids from Kindergarten to seniors in High School. Next year when the seniors graduate from our High School it will be the first class that I've known since they were in Kindergarten. I've watched them grow up and become the young adults that they are. I take a lot of pride in knowing that I was with them all the way through. I'm always conscience of this and everything I do revolves around it.

I believe one of my greatest strengths in teaching is that I'm able so see the big picture in the students lives. What I mean is that I've always tried to approach my way of teaching with one idea in mind....what is going to help them the most in the long run? I ask myself: how is this going to help them as they get older? With the primary aged students I've always tried to lay a foundation of discipline and instill a belief in them that they are able to recognize themselves. I believe that if a student learns at a very young age how to be responsible, and to have goals, that they really can achieve anything they want to in life.

As they grow into Middle School age kids I try to help them keep their eye on the goals they've set for themselves. I want them to recognize that decisions they are making now, will inevitably lead to what they will become in 5 or 10 years. I understand that at this age, most students are not thinking of their futures. But I think it's important that they at least have an idea of the kind of person they want to be.

During their High School years my time teaching them is more about getting them to want to challenge themselves. I want to get them out of their comfort zones so they can really find some things out about themselves. It's here when I see the most growth in kids. It's so much fun to see them break out of shells, develop humility, become more confident or responsible. It's here when I'm able to recognize the very reason why I do this. It's here that I'm reminded that the things I've tried to teach them when they were very young, is part of who they are. It's that connection, that relationship with them is more satisfying to me than anything.