Philosophy of Education

My personal goal for my future classroom is to watch as my students grow to become professional dental hygienists. To achieve my goal, I will inspire students to think critically using scientific data to maximize their success in dental-related fields. I believe an excellent way to challenge students is to use the scientific method to find answers to questions, as well as encourage creativity and skeptical inquiry. With this belief, I will teach students to apply what they learn in a class setting to the real world after graduation by using scientific evidence.

I will support the educational needs of the student while using updated information to guide them. I will use a blended learning style to help all students learn in different ways, and this will enable me to develop strategies and build flexibility and choice into my curriculum. My assignments will appeal to kinesthetic, auditory, and visual learners. I will engage my students with active learning to gain their attention.

I will work with students to develop affective values and beliefs, which will enable them to problem-solve and work under pressure while thinking critically and practically. I will create a hygienist who will be able to work through all encounters. Graduates will apply their competence to a variety of settings.

Students will know what is expected of them through clear and frequent communication. I will also provide a traditional syllabus with standards and policies at the beginning of each semester. I will also be fair and grade everyone with the same criteria.

I will stay current on scientific data through continuing education (CE) courses and reading scholarly journals to learn about new developments in the dental-related professions. I will also enroll in classes, workshops, webinars, and other learning forms to continue my development as an educator.

As a didactic and clinical instructor, I will prepare the next generation of dental hygienists to practice in private and public settings. I will prepare Old Dominion University dental hygiene students to become positive role models within the profession.

Thank you,

Elvina McHenry RDH, BSDH