

Teaching Philosophy Statement

I am passionate about dental hygiene and oral health. I believe in the professional associations that spend time maintaining our standards and assisting us in our accreditation of standards. To demonstrate this belief to my students I am a member of the American Dental Hygiene Association and participate in annual conferences; not only for continuing education, but to be an active role in social networking. It is my mission to ensure dental hygiene students are not only prepared to enter the workforce, but to also feel compassionate about oral health, and assisting their patient's to and community members to also be compassionate about oral health. My student's will feel confident in their skills and knowledge of dental hygiene, by not just learning textbook knowledge, but by participating with hands on opportunities.

Goal setting is very important, and I carry around a folder that has my long-term goals and my short-term goals. I will recommend the same for my students, not just for dental hygiene, but for their future. I will have my students periodically complete self-evaluations. It is important to take time for yourself and reflect on what you have learned. I will incorporate role play within the classroom setting so my students can have practice with their public speaking. As a dental hygienist you must feel comfortable speaking to your patients.

Teaching can be done in a variety of ways to reach all learning types. Power point, with interactive learning, small groups. Group activities such as Brain Drain, make it a Story, or Board Rotation are ways to engage group activities. I will also have volunteer opportunities within the community, so my students can have experience being an active community member and learn how to speak to individuals they have never met before, and this will enhance their communication skills.

When I have students that are struggling with learning material there are a few different things I can incorporate into the lecture to assist them, charts are always beneficial, and mnemonics are a wonderful tool. (This assisted me through dental hygiene school) Students learn in a variety of ways and I enjoy helping those students that might need additional guidance.

Tests are a way of to assess my students in their growth. However, when students can perform a task after it has been lectured, demonstrated, and practiced, the student has a better chance of demonstrating their growth. I also like to have occasional pop-up exit tickets after a lecture or demonstration. This will give me an opportunity to identify a struggling student.

To maintain an interactive classroom and have 100% student participation. One of my goals for the upcoming year is to create an engaging classroom environment. I would also like to incorporate more community building, so the students have more professional experiences outside the classroom setting. I am also looking forward to having a few of my colleagues listen to my lectures and listen to some of my colleagues' lectures to have an opportunity to collaborate with my facility.

This year I am excited as I am preparing to attend the International Symposium on Dental Hygiene. This is in South Korea, and I am excited to not only complete continuing education but have an opportunity to meet hygienists from other countries.

I have enjoyed my academic teaching as an elementary school teacher and being able to facilitate learning in a variety of ways, so that each child has the same opportunity even though they all do not learn the same. Being an educator for adults will be slightly different but looking forward to the opportunity and growth.