Teaching philosophy

I have no regrets about my decision to become a Mandarin teacher. The Chinese-speaking world is going to have such an impact on us professionally in so many other ways.

I relish the moments when I see a light bulb go off in my students’ heads when they get it. What I enjoy the most is when the students really understand the materials and are able to use them in “Mandarin class situation time” and in real life situations. We agree every learner has his or her learning style, strength and pace. As a teacher, we should keep Multiple Intelligence (MI) and Differential Instruction (DI) in mind when we prepare our lessons and assess our students. Meaningful outputs are the products from the “comprehensible inputs”. The outputs I want my students to produce are embedded from what I have provided for the students. Each step and lesson is closely connected with each other. The Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) and Content-Based (CB) are daily used in my classroom. Task-based projects and assessments for students are planned frequently.

I didn’t know the terminology of “i + 1” before this training. I am happy that I have practiced the concept all the time in my class. I always use the things students know to introduce new vocabulary or concepts. The backward design and Understand by Design (UbD) for the curriculum writing help me a lot to organize my thoughts and lessons to develop my students ability.

We live in a fast-paced era. The jobs we have now might not exist in 2020. We might see new kind of jobs which we can’t imagine right now. The means for communication are very different from what was used ten year ago. What should a teacher do in addition to giving students subject knowledge and skill? The following is what I believe.

1. I believe in team work – I always encourage my students to appreciate and discover each other’s strength. It is important to work well with other people. “截長補短 “, “團結力量大 “.

2. I believe in teaching by modeling. A good model for working habits, attitude and character.

3. I believe in the importance of learning process. Process is as important as the result. We can’t judge a student’s achievement only based on the performance.

4. I believe in developing in four areas other than subject knowledge and skills
   a. A passion about learning.
   b. A healthy respect to the subject
   c. An ability of independent research for help and resources
   d. To be a good and productive citizen to the global community

Every year there is a challenge. Every year we have a different audience. They react differently and so I must adjust. It never feels rote or repetitious. I would like to use the quote from Dr. Homer Adams & Sarah Adams Johnson - “The capacity to inspire is one of the teacher’s greatest offerings.”