Teaching Philosophy

I enjoy being an educator because I am very enthusiastic to be able to walk with my students on their journey to become life-long learners, critical thinkers and problem solvers. I believe that the purpose of education should guide the students to prepare themselves for their roles in the global community by building the students’ academic and social skills in a positive way and guiding them to develop healthily in physical, mental, emotional and social areas.

I have passion for helping students explore their potential. Each student is unique and should be valued. Each could be a different type of learner with different strengths and aptitudes, still the differences should be respected. For learning Chinese, some students develop their listening and speaking quickly while others show the talent to identify Chinese characters. Some might be more sensitive to vision or audio material, some might be more analytical and logical. I strive to provide intensive individual attention, address the learning needs of each student at his or her level and encourage each student to keep on making progress with self-esteem.

I believe that an effective teacher should not only impart knowledge to their students, but should also stimulate the students’ motivation and interests to learn, promote critical and creative thinking and direct the students to learn how to learn. Rather than being a sole provider of knowledge, an educator should be a facilitator of an interesting and challenging learning atmosphere, where students are encouraged to participate actively, present ideas, share experience and raise questions. I love the Chinese word for knowledge, which is composed by the two characters meaning learning and asking. The high school students today can get access to the modern technology and information easily; they desire for independence with sense of personal uniqueness; they value critical thinking in a logical way.
I strive to create and maintain a positive teaching/learning environment for acquiring Chinese as a second language through a balance of teacher-centered and student centered classroom, a balance of interpretive, interpersonal and presentational tasks, a balance of mechanic, meaningful and communicative drills. I also aim to use target language as much as possible and use authentic materials whenever available.

The ultimate goal of learning a language is to communicate in that language. An effective communication requires not only the language ability but also cultural awareness. In the global village, students should respect and concern for other cultures and be equipped with skills to work effectively in a cross-cultural environment. In order to promote the cross-cultural communication, both language acquisition and culture learning should be emphasized and the appropriate use of the language in different contexts should be practiced. It is my desire to share my experience of other regions of the world with the students and introduce them to the exciting and fascinating world of Chinese culture and society.

I choose to be an educator because I understand that teaching is one of the most challenging careers, but it is also the most rewarding career. The happiness when seeing my students making progress is beyond description.