I love learning. As an educator, I am obligated to share my love of learning and to motivate my students to learn to the fullest of their abilities. It is my responsibility to be an outstanding role model for my students; I must demonstrate to them that my life has meaning - in hopes that they will seek meaningful lives as constant contributors to the communities in which we live. I believe that teaching goes beyond the curriculum; I teach whole human beings, not just receptacles of knowledge. As an educator, I provide many images for my students - authority, nurturer, friend, specialist, counselor, second parent, disciplinarian, advocate, interpreter, storyteller, etc… I must always be mindful that my job is one upon which future generations must rely. I pass one civilization to the next.

"To be a teacher in the right sense is to be a learner. I am not a teacher, only a fellow student."

Kierkegaard

Being a middle school teacher adds some additional components to my philosophy – afterall, I know and understand the National Middle School positions…

- I believe that all middle school kids are at-risk.
- I believe that middle school kids need to interact during instruction.
I believe that middle school kids are on an emotional roller coaster ride that I’ve become a conductor for.

I believe that middle school kids are usually capable of concrete thinking skills, but that they are becoming capable of much more abstract thought.

I know that I must constantly vary my methods to be responsive to middle school children.
Sources -


(Also check Dewey's *Experience and Education*, Ayers' *To Teach*, and Rose's *Possible Lives*. Another major influence - Coles' *The Spiritual Live of Children*)