

Odyssey Charter School

Teaching Philosophy Survey

You will feel the greatest satisfaction working in an environment that embodies an evaluation and curriculum structure that is consistent with your philosophy and approach to teaching. To better understand your philosophy and help in ensuring the best teaching experience and atmosphere at Odyssey Charter School, we would ask you to complete the following survey. Please submit this survey along with the other application materials. Circle the answer or provide the requested response that best describes your teaching philosophy. If you desire, you are welcome to attach written responses for increased clarity-however, this is not necessary.

1. Please rank the following five teacher goals in order from 1 to 5, where 1 is the highest rank or that which you believe to be the teacher's primary or most important role.

- ___ Guide students in developing lifelong learning skills
- ___ Help students learn the social skills necessary for life
- ___ Help students achieve academically
- ___ Teach students how to listen and communicate effectively
- ___ Maintain discipline and order in the classroom

2. How would you characterize the teaching style best used to teach mastery of content?

- a. Cooperative groups
- b. Student-directed and student-paced
- c. Teacher directed with frequent assessment
- d. Other: _____

3. What best describes your opinion of standards?

- a. Standards should be set high and students should be helped to reach them.
- b. Standards are of little value because students are all so unique.
- c. Standards are a good idea but they shouldn't be used as yardsticks.

4. Would you say your teaching philosophy is best described as:

- a. Constructivist: students should direct their learning; the teacher is a facilitator.
- b. Instructivist: teachers are responsible to impart knowledge to the point of mastery

in their students, then help them learn to "connect" their knowledge leading to the student's ability to synthesize knowledge.

5. How do you feel about the statement: "If a student has not learned a teacher has not taught":

- a. This is essentially true: if the student doesn't learn the material the teacher must keep refining their skills to ensure that the learning takes place.
 - b. This is essentially false: it is unfair to put this kind of pressure on a teacher when the student is the one who decides if they will learn or not.
 - c. Other:
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6. Which of the following most accurately describes your philosophy of the classroom?

- a. A student learns best in a flexible curriculum, customized for personal achievement where he is given the opportunity to pursue topics of personal interest at his own pace.
- b. A student learns best when he is taught a coherent, sequential curriculum by a skilled teacher who makes all learning interesting.

7. Which statement below best reflects your reaction to structuring reading, spelling and math groups by assessing all students and placing them in small groups (8-12 students) at their achievement level, even if this is across grade levels?

- a. It is not a good idea—students should remain with their peers to ensure they don't suffer from a lack of self-esteem. Labeling students is not productive and peers at higher educational levels can be good role models to students performing at a lower level.
- b. It is the only way to ensure efficient learning by the students. Students can begin learning at the correct starting point of their expertise and move forward at a pace that is appropriately challenging to them. Self-esteem is a result of success.
- c. Neither: _____

8. In describing your personal classroom management philosophy, which statement below best reflects what you believe:

- a. All students have different personalities and backgrounds so classroom behavior standards should be tailored to the needs of each student where more is expected of those more capable.
- b. Classroom behavior standards that are clear fair and reasonable need be set and all students should be expected to adhere to them. Resolving violations of the

classroom standards may be accomplished by taking into consideration each student's unique strengths and challenges.

c. Neither:

9. Which statement best reflects what you believe your best action would be when a student is reading aloud and makes a mistake:

- a. I should correct them immediately.
- b. I should not embarrass them by correcting them in front of the class.

10. Please select the statement that best represents your belief regarding classroom standards and grading:

- a. Students should be graded on a uniform classroom standard so it is possible to determine how successful my teaching is.
- b. Students' abilities are so varied that it is only fair that their ability levels should be taken into consideration when grading them.

11. Which description below most closely reflects your educational philosophy:

- a. It is well established, unlikely to change and based on what my education professors taught and what makes sense to me. I rarely, if ever, have updated it based on new research findings as most "research" in the area is of questionable practical value. I rely more on what makes sense to me and what I am comfortable doing in the classroom.
- b. It is flexible and evolving, as I believe that tangible valuable improvements are constantly being made in the educational sciences. It is based on research and I am willing to adjust and change it when I learn new things even if they contradict what I was taught in education school.

12. Please indicate which of the following statements most accurately defines your view of teaching and assessment:

- a. Assessment is mostly subjective and usually biased, based on the perspective of the evaluator and the instrument being used; making it virtually impossible to quantify the results of teaching with specific assessments and concrete measurements.
- b. It is a science in that we know much about how students learn. Data-driven instructional practice is vital to achieving academic success in students. Teaching becomes an art as the teacher becomes expert at applying the science with positive results that are quantifiable.

Each of us as a teacher has great power to positively impact the life of a child. If you were to write a mission statement with this in mind, how would you complete the following:

As a teacher I have the privilege of impacting children's lives in positive way each day. I strive to ensure that each interaction I have with a student results in: