

Introduction

My name is Martine Newill. I am a graduate of Simon Fraser University, with a History major and Kinesiology minor. I am currently a student at Vancouver Island University in the Post Baccalaureate Education Program.

About Myself

My volunteer experiences include organizing an international wheelchair tennis festival from 1996-2002, working as an assistant wrestling coach for Burnaby Mountain Wrestling Club, actively participating in citizens on patrol, canvassing for several organizations, supervising intramural games, participating in a school running club, volunteering in a high school Art class and being an active member of Columbia Valley and Nanaimo Search and Rescue ground and swift water team.

My athletic background includes: ten years of wrestling, four years of judo, soccer, swimming, volleyball, long distance running, tennis and field hockey. In my spare time I enjoy hiking, road biking and canoeing.

While attending post-secondary school I worked in the service industry, construction, in the school district as a special education assistant, in a foster home as a respite relief worker and currently I have a casual position working for the city of Nanaimo. I am drawn to a career in education because I enjoy working with children and feel that it is important to help children reach their full potential in life.

Another passion I have is travel. I have travelled to Costa Rica, Mexico, England, France, Italy, Switzerland, Peru, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, United States and extensively in British Columbia. I have visited some of these countries several times. I enjoy planning trips, meeting new people, experiencing different cultures and learning new languages.

My vision for students' learning

The purpose of education is to develop social, physical and mental skills in order to contribute in society and achieve personal goals. It is my job as a teacher to create a safe learning environment, ensure that students have a strong foundation of literacy and numeracy as well as meet prescribed learning outcomes. My vision for student learning consists of building an environment where students can learn at different speeds and demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways. I envision working with progressive educational instructors and students that are excited to be life long learners. I want students to be motivated, feel that they play an important role in their community, are proud of where they live, who they are and what they have accomplished. Students should be exposed to multiple disciplines, be aware of their own personal frame of reference, feel confident enough to pursue their goals and seek further education. Ultimately, students should feel that they have been provided all the educational tools to succeed in life. I maintain enthusiasm for teaching all subjects and show a genuine interest and appreciation towards children.

How students learn best

Students learn through a variety of methods and what works best for one student will not work as well for the next student. Teachers need to understand that students have multiple intelligences, work at a variety of paces and need to have the opportunity to work both in groups and as individuals. Students are motivated to learn when they are given clear expectations from teachers and learning is scaffolded. To develop intrinsic motivation, teachers should provide opportunities for students to choose what they want to learn, provide supportive and skill specific feedback.

How teachers work most effectively with students

I am a kind but firm teacher that is approachable and respected by students. I maintain a professional outlook and an enthusiasm for learning. I am able to instruct a classroom, facilitate discussion and show students that I am excited to learn with them. My method of teaching involves introducing a topic to students with a hook, getting students to discuss in pairs or groups, and developing tasks that provide authentic learning experiences. I don't believe that it is beneficial for teachers to be the central focus during class exploration. There is a significant amount of diversity in the classroom today and I feel professional development is key to student success.

Relationships with parents and colleagues

I hope to collaborate with parents and colleagues to promote student success. To increase communication, I will send out newsletters or update a class website regularly. Newsletters will

demonstrate that I am passionate about teaching, that I have each child's interests at heart and I am informed of current educational research. To encourage feedback from parents and colleagues, I will maintain an open classroom and participate in community projects.

Classroom management and discipline

Teachers need to have a firm understanding of child and adolescent development. Teachers need to address all situations calmly, openly and without threatening consequences that make others feel unsafe or develop a lack of trust towards adults. Some basic steps to conflict resolution include: asking how students feel, reminding students of classroom rules, teaching students to confront problems independently and reinforcing positive behaviour. I believe that management needs to reflect student behavior and teachers should maintain open communication with parents and colleagues. If problems are not being solved effectively it is important to ask colleagues for suggestions, notify the principle and speak to parents.

Assessment

Although writing quizzes may be the most efficient way of getting a quantitative measure of knowledge, I am very enthusiastic about applying different forms of assessment. I will inform children of daily learning objectives and allow students to influence in how they are assessed. Assessment should be viewed as a positive tool to give feedback and let students know that they are responsible for their own learning. Assessment should support learning and influence instruction.

Support

BCTF code of Ethics is an important aspect in my framework. I have had the opportunity to be a leader many times in my community and feel it is essential to have the same ethnics in the classroom as in my personal life. I want to be a teacher because I value honesty, integrity, professionalism, respect, community and accountability. I model what I value and hope that my actions will influence others. The BC Teachers Regulation Branch Standards, is responsible for issuing teaching certification, evaluating education programs and enforcing standards. It is an important aspect in my frame of reference because it helps teachers stay connected to learning resources, keeps track of employment status and is responsible for future certification. Finally, BC Integrated Resource Package will be a necessary resource to guide all lessons. IRP's indicate lesson rationale, goals, learning timeframes, ideas for program delivery, key elements that should be learned and achievement indicators. All lessons will be designed in accordance to BC IRP's and I will clearly outline all the topics what will be taught throughout the year based on IRP's.