

Statement of Teaching and Philosophy  
Margaret Geary

*'Why have you chosen to become a teacher?'*

The main reason I decided to become a teacher was because of a music teacher I had in elementary and junior high. He was an amazing teacher. Right from the start, he knew that I excelled in music and helped me in any way possible to further my musical abilities and nurture my love and passion for the arts. He inspired me to become a teacher like him and give back the community. It is my hope to show students my passion and have them be just as passionate as I am when it comes to music.

This music teacher was diagnosed with breast cancer in my grade 8 year and that renewed my thoughts of being a music teacher. I was to be able to keep his teaching alive, or at least the memory of his teaching. He passed away the first year I was in university. I'm hoping he's guiding me on my journey to become a music teacher.

I also want to be a teacher because I want to enrich minds. I want to make sure our future is in good hands and that the children of today know more than they did the day before or the year before. I want to help them enjoy learning and I want them to feel safe at school. I'm a lifelong learner as well. I'm always curious about this and that and I want to keep on learning for the rest of my life. I teach saxophone lessons on the side and I'm always fascinated by what my students teach me.

*"What is my philosophy of teaching?"*

I want to inspire young minds. I want to support a brighter future. I want to motivate all types of learners. I want to create smiles on my student's faces. I want to make a safe and welcoming learning environment for all. I want to make learning fun.

These are all objectives of my teaching. I want to achieve all of these by having an open classroom with my students and allow them to be a part of the learning process. I believe all students should have a say in what they learn, how they learn, and how the teacher is going to tell how they learnt it. It can't always work in their best interests, but by allowing the students to reflection on how they learn, why they learn the way they do, what they like to learn, I believe that students will have a more successful time in school as opposed to teacher autonomy and unrealistic expectations.

I believe in mastery of a subject; allowing students to re-take tests until they get the mark they want, reviewing topics that not everyone gets in new and dynamic ways and creating tests that allow every student success and the ability to master the topic. In teaching, there is so much pressure on a one shot, give it your all assessment, but I believe all students should have a right to master the topic and learn at their own pace. Mastery of a topic in education should be more important than a grade.

Education is synonymous with lifelong learning. We educate ourselves every day without even realizing it. In teaching, I believe that professional development and making connections are key factors to lifelong learning and I want to encourage students to set goals through portfolios and student-parent-teacher conferences. If the teacher can be a lifelong learner, so can the students.