

Five Core Propositions

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

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Proposition 1:
Teachers are committed to students and their learning.

I believe that this statement is one of the most important things an educator should support. I go into every new school year eager to meet my new group of students. I know that every single child will bring something special and unique to our classroom, whether it is a fun sense of humor, a love for science experiments, or a caring and loving nature. I strive to create an atmosphere that is welcoming and safe for all students. The microculture in my classroom must be one that allows all students to thrive and be successful in their educational journeys. Knowing the interests and special skills of students helps me in preparing lessons that are beneficial for the individual students in my class.

Proposition 2:
Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students.

Having taught in the same grade-level (3rd) for six years, I have become very familiar with my subject matter. Additionally, my grade-level colleague and I departmentalize; she teaches our students math and I teach reading. This has given me the opportunity to be very conversant in language arts state standards, fluency, and the best way to assist students. However, I think it is also important to always stay up-to-date on new teaching theories and practices, never becoming stagnant. To do this, I attend professional development opportunities in literacy, math, and in particular, technology integration. Earning my Master's degree in Digital Teaching & Learning has also given me a renewed passion for teaching and how to use technology to reach all students in all subjects. I believe the most important thing to strive for is creative and effective ways to reach every single student.

Proposition 3:
Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning.

In one of my first years of teaching, the principal told my colleagues and I to remember to "keep all students engaged, all the time." This is certainly something to strive for, but is often easier said than done. First of all, it is vital to set the tone for my classroom on the first day of the school year. I cannot begin to cover important content until the environment and atmosphere in my classroom is safe and caring. I also believe that technology is a wonderful tool for keeping students engaged and excited about the content I am teaching them. I do not believe in using

technology just for “the sake of using it;” rather, I believe that it is a wonderful instrument to integrate into the curriculum in a variety of ways. Differentiating instruction is yet another strategy I use to engage and reach all learners. Teaching to my students as individuals, rather than as a whole group, allows me to monitor each student’s understanding and needs. Differentiation also provides the opportunity for evaluation and assessment of each individual student’s understanding.

**Proposition 4:
Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experiences.**

Teaching is all about the experiences! I know that the longer I teach the more I will learn and grow. I also believe that reflection is one of the most important practices for an educator. There are days that I teach a lesson, and then realize I did not teach it as I had meant to. Sometimes, however, that can be a great thing as it can open up doors and avenues that turned out to be very beneficial to the students! I strive to constantly make my teaching better. One way I can do this is by reading professional magazines, such as ISTE’s *Learning & Leading*. I use this magazine not only to stay up-to-date on trends and emerging technologies, but also to get some excellent ideas from fellow educators on lessons to try with my students.

**Proposition 5:
Teachers are members of learning communities.**

One of the most important and long-lasting lessons I have learned from my graduate studies is how very important a PLN (personal learning network) can be! Keeping in touch with my fellow graduate classmates has not only formed long-lasting friendships, but given me the opportunity to learn from an incredible group of educators. Additionally, I have grown a strong and incredible PLN using Twitter. I am able to connect with colleagues from around the globe and benefit from the vast amount of knowledge and expertise these fellow educators share.

The Five Core Propositions were used from the web site:

http://www.nbpts.org/the_standards/the_five_core_propositions

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