Philosophy Statement

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” This quote by Mahatma Gandhi sums up what I want to uphold as a teacher. I remember as a student in grade school there was a couple of teacher’s where I wasn’t comfortable enough in sharing my thoughts or asking questions. This experience has made me feel that it is beneficial for the student if I take my student’s views into consideration. I want them to feel accepted. I will reassure them that it is okay to make mistakes. If a child feels comfortable and accepted, the more learning there is. I have always had that kid at heart mentality. I believe this helps me relate to children. A big part of my personality is that I am empathetic. This ability allows me to better connect and become closer to whatever problem they’re facing.

College of Saint Mary’s Guidance and Classroom Management class has given me a plethora of new ideas that feels right for me to practice with my future students. The theories and practices that reflect my beliefs rely mostly with Jacob Kounin. His model states that good classroom management depends on effective lesson management. Kounin’s take on smooth transitions, I agree whole heartedly. I’ve been in classrooms where there weren’t effective transitions. These waiting times leave for chaos. While the teacher is searching for her next lesson it leaves room for the children to act out. I want to teach the younger grades and for transitions I would give them enough time to prepare for each change. I have personally witnessed the effectiveness of giving kids reminders that the next lesson will be coming up soon and you have so and so amount of time for what you are currently working on. As I read in the book “You Can’t Come to My Birthday Party” by Betty Evans maintaining a consistent daily routine helps children feel secure and in control. This helps with transitions, the kids understand what comes next because they go through this schedule the same every day. When they know what goes on during the day it helps prevent conflicts and out of control behavior. Another Kounin discipline idea I believe is keeping up with student satiation. I have been babysitting all my life. While I babysit I absolutely do not want the child or children I am watching to be bored. When they are bored it leaves room for sadness, missing mommy and daddy, getting into trouble and disliking Katharine. I don’t want any of that. To avoid this problem in my classroom I can provide a variety of instructional strategies to reach all my students. Another philosopher I believe has great strategies for working with children is Haim Ginott. The points he states that I feel will guide my actions in my current job as a nanny and my future job as a teacher is using I messages. For example, I feel sad when you aren’t listening. This takes a blaming tone away and avoids hurting their feelings or lowering their self-esteem.

Lastly, I agree that setting rules is an important part in starting the feel of the school year and developing your classroom management. I will communicate with my student’s simple, to the point rules. We will write these together and create a small list to put in the front of the classroom as a daily reminder. Another classroom management idea I believe in is problem solving. This class has helped me in mediating conflicts between students. I want to teach my students problem solving skills by identifying the problem, identifying the goals, developing strategies, developing a plan of action, and carrying out the plan. Who am I kidding, this also helps me problem solve better too!