

Benchmark: Education and purpose

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COSC604: Foundations of Education and School Counseling

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Abstract

In this paper you will be reading some different things about the field of education. There are many different components throughout the paper that you will see. Taking a dive into some areas that others do not like to discuss. Looking at the whole system, teachers, staff, school counselors, and principals.

Keywords: Education, Teachers, Counselors, Schools

Education and Purpose

Thesis statement

Education should be used to help students become the best version of themselves, in every aspect of their lives.

Creating an environment to help students learn some of the most important things in their lives, that they will carry with them throughout the rest of their lives. Students are at school 6-7 hours per day, so the impact that educators have on them is so great. So, each school staff member that they are in contact with will have a huge impact on their lives throughout the process of their education. It is vital to do what the bible tells us in any aspect of life, but in this role I feel as though it will have a much deeper impact. In the book of luke chapter 6 verse 31, “Treat others just as you want to be treated (ESV, 1995)”

Philosophy of Schools & Learning

Why is education so important? School is meant to teach us so many different things in life. Learning basic skills and knowledge, essential skills (ex: interactions with others, learning to work through difficult challenges, and so on), on top of learning. Learning how to follow directions, motivation, success, failure, work ethic, and so many more. There have been moments that I have felt inadequate or stupid, when in the process of learning. However, there are individuals who changed that for me. According to Graham 2009, students who are more successful than other students, should not be of more value than those who are not. There have been those moments, in my academic career and my own Childrens as well, that I have had first hand experience with this. There are individuals who too often, focus more attention on those students who are much more academically sound than those who are not. It is important for those things to shift or we are not fulfilling our calling (Graham, 2009).

Theories

Theories are something that should assist school counselors with the process of how they would like to approach each of their students and situations that they are challenged with.

Understanding and knowing how the different components of each or a few could be utilized to improve or enhance the school(s) counseling program/process.

It is important to focus on the Theories that, as the school counselor, see best fitting. First one I feel is similar and aligns with how I want to do my program is Person-Centered. This theory has always been, to me, valuable to any person I have worked with either in mental health or not school counseling. The focus of person centered is solely on the client/student. It helps them to feel as though they are in charge of their therapy or lives. This is super important for individuals from all walks of life and age. “..... creation of a therapeutic relationship that will foster the client’s innate drive toward self-actualization and growth. (Cepeda, L. M., & Davenport, D. S. (2006)).” Many of those whom I have served or worked with needed to feel this due all of the events of their lives in which they had felt completely powerless.

As therapists, when using Solution focused therapy it is important to understand that the point is to not have the focus on past behaviors, instead the goals and things that the student/client would want, Cepeda, L. M., & Davenport, D. S. (2006). This can oftentimes be difficult to focus on, especially when a child has repeated behaviors. I think about it in a different aspect due to my own personal experience. It is important to try and shift their attitudes about themselves and it can help with success in other areas.

Instructional Practice

In the first paragraph I discussed the fact that every student is different. It can take some time to find that groove for them, with the proper support. For myself, it took some time to

understand the way my brain works and what I can do to help me learn things. The help of a few teachers, who guided me, was the most vital point of this process. Each of those teachers took time and help to unlock those things I needed to learn to assist in having some success while at school. One example I'll give was during my sophomore year of high school. My math teacher took time aside to explain things or give examples of solutions for a problem that I may have been struggling with. He took time out of his day, even when he was not supposed to and helped so many of us students. He will always be in my memories as what he did was important and added value to me. He took his time, showed he cared, and showed a lot of grace and understanding.

In education since every student is different it is so important to find a creative way to assist them in the learning process. Doing specialized testing for each student that it is necessary for to see if they have needs that are unmet. If we can develop a plan for achievement early on, the dynamic for that student will change. I am very against the process of which school is run, as it appears to have changed since I was a child. Even Then it was not the best. The expectations of each student is different and at times a bit overwhelming. I would like to find a way to teach kids that they do not feel this way and are then more successful academically.

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Teacher-Learner Relationships

“Common sense tells us that a child who sits in the classroom doing nothing is a child with no purpose (Graham, 2009).” It is so important for each school staff member to take part in helping a student feel as though they are valuable and have a purpose. If this doesn't happen, I feel as though that is when we see a decline in student success. Other things that have been evident is student success, through my own journey, has been a caring/kind teacher. If an

individual comes across as harsh/cruel or having a know it all attitude, it impacts relationships. I see it each day in my current job with a couple of teachers. Almost one time per week a student is upset about the way one of those two teachers treated them. I have also seen this with my own children and through my own academic career.

I will end this section with this scripture in Titus 8, that stood out to me, “Teach the truth so that your teaching can’t be criticized. Then those who oppose us will be ashamed and have nothing bad to say about us (NLT).” This could be related to so many different things in the school setting. When I read this I thought, if teachers were teaching in the way we have been called to teach they would likely still be criticized due to the world being fallen.

Diversity

Throughout many aspects of the United States, there are going to be many different cultures and ethnicities. We are supposed to be like a melting pot in this world. With that we have to adapt to the needs of those students. There are going to be some things that we have to get creative with due to resources, but being intientail about those choices is what is going to change the relationship between the students and teacher.

“Integrated. Another characteristic of the curriculum at OCS is that the teachers make an obvious attempt to achieve an integral whole. They affirm the diversity of subjects, and they do not blur the distinctions between mathematics and social studies. However, in several ways the teachers seek to make connections between subject areas so that students experience knowledge not only in its diversity but also in its unity (Graham, 2009).”

There are many ways that I have learned can help with removing those barriers from some of my other classes. The one that stood out to me was simply asking the student, “What can

I do...” at the end of the statement you insert whatever their culture needs and then you say, “Let me see what I can do to help,” or something of that nature. They want to feel as though their needs are being met no matter what.

My plan

The most important thing to me in education is treating children with respect and ensuring we are meeting their educational needs/goals. I know how I often felt in school when I could not do something well and even now at times. Writing this paper, I had many setbacks and wanted to give up due to those hurdles I had. Simply getting a response that my Professor was listening to helped me feel more comfortable, even though I may not get the best grades on things.

I don't know exactly what my philosophy might be other than what I had written in the above paragraph. I am new to the school side of things and putting away the mental health aspect of me is difficult at times to have that different perspective. Creating a school counseling program that helps students feel successful, even if they are not at their best at times. Finding a way to help pick them up when they are in those down moments, so change that dynamic to be a little less stressful for them.

Conclusion

Throughout this paper I discussed different aspects of education. Walked through some of the different aspects and purposes of education. Discussed teachers' roles and responsibilities in my opinion of what those should look like. The overall education system as a whole was mentioned. I hope that I was able to bring some light to things by giving a unique perspective.

References

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