**My Philosophy of Teaching Mathematics**

Mathematics should be presented in a way that is fun, engaging, and welcoming to all students. Incorporating visual, auditory, and kinesthetic aspects into all lessons will help me create such an environment that will appeal to the learning styles of all students.

It is my belief that nothing should be taught in isolation. Many subjects should be incorporated into a single lesson. For example, when teaching a new topic in mathematics, I will begin with a brief history lesson into the foundation of the topic. This incorporates two disciplines into a single lesson. It is important to find a way to reach every student. Differentiated instruction is necessary in not only the special education setting, but in all classrooms.  Students may learn by visual, auditory, kinesthetic, or any combination of the three styles. I plan to use manipulative pieces often. This will make learning math fun and will help aid those that need the extra support. Math songs and videos will also aid in the retention process of the material.

Technology is also a key component in today's classroom.  Technology has become an integral part of children's life both inside and outside of school. Teachers must keep up with the changing times and incorporate those aspects into the classroom. Smartboards are a great resource to get students involved and excited about learning. Presenting information on a Powerpoint with pictures and sound will create a stimulating learning experience. Math problems can also be done on the Smartboard. Students are able to use different colors, erase, and work out their thoughts. Problem solving can be developed by doing so. I believe it is also important for students to have time for guided self exploration, in the form of group work or Webquests for example. It is not enough for students to copy information, but if they are involved and have a chance to think critically and explore they will retain the information.

My desire is that each of my students will become productive members of society. I believe that students are unique individuals who need a safe and engaging atmosphere in which they may learn and grow. By making math appealing to students, I will help instill a love of not only mathematics but a love of learning in general.