

I believe that all students possess an inherent need to acquire knowledge, no matter where they come from, their economic status, or their level of cognitive development. As a teacher that works with students behind their grade level, I understand that, despite some students' limitations, all students can and want to learn. I believe those students deserve to have a teacher who is fully committed to teaching all students, a teacher who knows the subject they teach, and a teacher who is capable of providing multimodal learning approaches to reach all of the different learning styles within the classroom. Finally, I believe that as a teacher, I have a short window of time to make a difference in their life.

I am committed to the learning of my students, because I continue to further my education and research new reading techniques to use with them. This requires that I have a firm grasp of the content area standards in order to design a curriculum that will align those standards with the new practices I learn and align them to my students individual reading needs. It is important to find interesting and engaging activities that students will enjoy performing.

By managing and monitoring students' progress, I am able to provide students with modifications to content materials because the content materials are too difficult for them to understand. I am able to provide the accommodations like, extended time, preferential seating, copies of notes, and oral testing to my special education and English Learner students so they may achieve academic success. Alternative assessments can also be provided, so students can demonstrate content mastery.

I constantly strive to learn new and innovative ways in which to reach and teach my students, which is evident in my pursuit furthering my education. Through

collaboration with fellow educators, I am able to apply newly learned strategies. I feel that it is vital that teachers acquire new techniques, theories, and strategies to have a successful and productive teaching career.

Subsequently, teachers are one of the key components of the learning community. Teachers should create a dialogue with parents, students, and coaches via, phone, fax, email, or face to face. It is vital to a students' success to keep the lines of communication open at all times, in order to provide ongoing student support. I continue an open dialogue with my parents using my website: www.MrShoemaker.com and through an email address that I check at home. Due to my level of commitment to the LEARNING of all my students, they will be able to reap the benefits learning in an environment geared toward the success of its students.

Finally, I believe that, as a teacher, it is my primary job to inspire them. Because I am working with the lowest students in the school, I need to show them that there are people out there that believe in them. Most of my students have been discarded by their other teachers as not smart enough and discipline problems. It is my goal to be a beacon of hope for them in a trying time. As teachers, we need to make an impact on them that can last a lifetime. We never know what words will change our students; however, one of those words could change them enough so that when they grow up they can change the world!