

Jenna Churchill

## Educational Philosophy

My philosophy of education is built on the foundation of equity. Understanding what the word equity means and how we can be equitable as educators is critical for us to make meaningful progress in the education system. We live in a society that is beautifully diverse, and it is not lost on me that many of my future students who are diverse will continue to face barriers that I will never understand. It is my job as an educator to help break down those barriers, starting within the walls of my classroom. To do this successfully, I want to build strong relationships with each of my students. I feel it is important to go beyond knowing their name. I want to know their interests and culture and what makes each of them special as an individual. I want my students to feel that my classroom will always be a safe space to celebrate that individuality. Whether they are my student or not, the environment that I build will always hold up that expectation. I feel that celebrating each student's uniqueness, must also come with community. My dream is to create a classroom community where every student feels safe and comfortable to be who they are with each other. We will acknowledge all ways of knowing and being and work to decolonize our imaginations because we know that is how we can achieve growth in the way of true reconciliation. We will explore other worldviews and welcome knowledge and ideas that differ from Western philosophy. We can learn from the land and the people who have cared for it since time immemorial. Lastly, to be an educator who is equitable and inclusive, which is my central goal, I must practice self-reflection, I will ask for help, and I will always be open to criticism. I want to be an educator that can hold myself accountable and model to my students that it is okay to be wrong and mistakes are a learning opportunity. As an educator, I will commit to lifelong learning because that is how I will grow to be better each day.