

LBST 330- Fields of Interest

1. My emerging field of interest is education and becoming a teacher. I have always loved children. I have been a babysitter since I was 12 and have always enjoyed being around children. This has resulted in my wanting to do something I love and that is helping children and further their education.

2. Subjects related to my field of interest:

Math 190- fall 2017 Shiva

This course is math for elementary teachers. It was designed to give future students an understanding of what they will be teaching students and different techniques to use. This relates to my field as I want to become a teacher so it showed me how I would be teaching the students and what I would be teaching them.

Geography 208 fall 2017 Christopher Gratham

This course was a geography course all about Canada. It thought us about the people of Canada and how we have a vast variety of landscapes. Teaching the youth about where they live is very important. So, this class gave me a foundation of what to teach them, so they understand where they live.

Health and Human Nutrition 112 fall 2018

This course talked about the different aspects that it takes to make a body healthy. It looked at food consumption, exercise, and diseases. I know this typically isn't

in the curriculum for elementary school, but I would love to teach my students about nutrition and how to fuel your body the right way.

History 111 spring 2018 Denis Dubord

This history class takes a look at Canada after the confederation. This course will come in handy when I am teaching my future kids about Canada. This class was very informative and will be very useful.

English 100- Jenny Pemberthy Fall 2015

When becoming a teacher, it is important to know proper spelling and grammar. This class taught me just that, so it will come in handy in the future.

3. Extra-curricular activities related to my field of interest:

Outdoor School Counsellor

I was an outdoor school counsel in grades 10-12 in Squamish. At the camp I would teach kids typically in grade 6 and 7 all about the outdoors, nature, and animals. Here is where I really got my passion to become a teacher. I got a taste of what it was going to be like to be a teacher.

NorVan boys and girls club

When I was in grade 12, I volunteered at a NorVan boys and Girls Club, which is an afterschool care for kids in grades K-7. Here I would help with snacks, help with their homework and help organize activities. At this club I realized I really wanted to teach

elementary school. I loved helping the kids with their homework and be able to see them start to understand a concept they didn't understand before.

Gymnastics Coach

I have been a high school gymnastics coach for the past 5 years. I tend to teach the girls in the lowest level. I would teach the kids everything from a basic skill to a more advanced one on all apparatuses. While being a coach I gained an understanding of what it was like to have complete patience while teaching/coaching. Not every kid will grasp a skill as easily as others, so I would have to spend extra one-on-one time with them.

Babysitting

I have been a babysitter since I was 13. I have looked after children from the ages 1- 13. While with the children I helped with their homework and looked after them. This helped me gain a sense of understanding and patience while with the kids. The children don't always understand their homework, so I have to think of different ways to teach them, so they understand and grasp the concepts.

4. Throughout my years at Capilano University I have taken many classes and completed many projects that have helped me with my decision to become a teacher. Below I am going to talk about a few of those projects and how they shaped my decision.

The first piece of academic work I am choosing that relates to teaching is the math 190 math fair that was a part of the math 190 curriculum. At first, I was dreading the fair. Kids can be so judgemental, and I was nervous they were not going to like my activity. I was also nervous my project wasn't going to be to the standards of my class members activities. I soon learned that the children didn't care about what it looked like, they only cared about learning and having fun.

This fair was conducted in November of 2017. The overall goal of this fair was to teach elementary students different forms of math through fun and engaging games. These ways were often board games that were very interactive. My math class was divided into groups of two or three people. Each group was in charge of creating a brain teaser or game that taught kids about math. Each of the learning games would include three levels: easy, medium, and hard. The purpose of this, results from the fact that all kids are at different levels of learning. One kid may find it super easy while another may find it hard. This way every kid is included and can have fun.

Participating in the math fair made my urge to become a teacher that much stronger. Seeing the happy looks on the children's faces when they "won" or completed an activity was priceless and inspiring. I want to be able to see that look for the rest of my life and help kids achieve it. My math fair taught me so much patience when it

comes to teaching children math. Math can be a very hard subject and hard to grasp, so it is important to take your time and really make sure the child gets it.

The second piece of academic work I am choosing that related to teaching is my geography 208 final project. For this project, I had to create a thesis and prove it with the activities we completed in class, our notes, quizzes, and the textbook. Throughout the term my professor made sure we were constantly learning in new ways. Whether it be with diagrams, artwork, quizzes, notes, or scavenger hunts, he always made it different and fun. I really want to incorporate that into my own teaching style.

The thesis I chose to prove right was “how the four faultlines have effected Canada in a negative way. With this topic, I picked different artifacts such as: activities, quizzes, assignments, and parts of the textbook that backed up my thesis. I had to choose 8 artifacts and describe how they backed up my thesis. This really taught me that you can teach students in different ways and they can still retain the information and use it to their advantage.

As a result of this assignment, I really want to make a conscious effort to incorporate different styles of teaching methods in my own classroom. I always thought I would be the type of teacher that would teach in front of the class and not incorporate different styles. Such as, going outside or making fun activities. I know think it is important to switch things up and make it interesting. This way, I am hoping the kids will pay more attention to the material and retain more of the facts and information. Being able to sit down and put my whole project together that represented my semester was very satisfying. It was also able to show me what I completed throughout the term and

it made me feel very proud of myself. I want my future students to feel this way about themselves as well. I want them to look back at that grade as a success and not a “waste of time”. I want them to be able to see themselves grow as academics.

5. Sample Research Projects

As a result of this assignment and the courses I’ve taken, I want to possibly conduct a research project about whether kids learn better inside or outside. I have been an outdoor school counsellor, where I would teach the kids about the outdoors, animals, and ecosystems. I have also helped children with their homework, which would take place inside. I am curious if students would retain more information if they were outside or inside. Both places have positives and negatives. For example, the outside could be more distracting with all the noises; however, the fresh air could help the kids concentrate better. I would take a classroom and teach the children once outside and once inside. The information would be different but in the same subject. At the end of the lesson I would give them a quiz about what they had just learned. I would then compare the students marks to see if the students learnt better outside or inside. I would then reconduct this experiment with different age groups and more than one class.

The second research question I would want to look at, is if children learn better before or after physical activity. I know this is similar to the other one, but I am very

curious about what makes a good environment for a child to learn in. Similar to the first one, I would first take the class to the gymnasium or outside where they would have P.E. I would then teach them a lesson, test them, and see how they retained the information. I would then do the same thing but before P.E. From this I would be able to see if the kids were too tired to concentrate after exercise, or if they had too much energy and couldn't concentrate before exercising. When I was a counsellor, we did many different physical activities. These activities would sometimes make the kids super tired and they didn't want to focus. Other times, if we were teaching them first thing in the morning, the children would have so much energy they couldn't focus. So, from this study I would hope to find out which is better: exercise before or after learning.