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EDCI 635 Curriculum Development

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During this course, I have learned so many valuable tools to help me better myself as an educator. Dr. Fullan stated “if relationships improve, schools get better. If relationships remain the same or get worse, the ground is lost” (2002). In my classroom, I have put a lot of emphasis on relationships with students. At Northwest over this semester, I have seen a lot of growth in the culture of the school. The students, staff, and administrators all seem to be on the same page and are working together towards a common goal: making it the best school.  My curriculum development project was over my communication foundations class. Being in my second year of teaching, I think this class has given me so many tools to develop the class I teach to be the best it can be. I was asked to develop a rec and leisure class for our special education department. When starting the course, I have already put a lot of thought into the philosophy of the course. The key focus of the class will also be developing a strong scope and sequence. Having a strong scope and sequence will help better prepare and put together a clear vision for the class. Putting together the purpose, the teacher’s role, student’s role, methods, and the content will help others better understand the vision of the class. One of the biggest challenges I came across while developing the curriculum is not having the guidance of a textbook that has both communication concepts and social skills. Most of the class is being built from the ground up with resources I can find and get my hands on. Mr. Mathews stated the focus has to be on the community rather than on the schools. Certain things have to happen in our communities before we can see the improvement we want in our schools (1997). Giving students more opportunities in communication foundations will need the support of the community. The more the students get put into situations where they are put outside of their comfort zone, the more they will grow. Armstrong stated a role for schools is to help prepare them for the world of work (2003). Supporting students within the community will help my students be prepared for the world of work. The students will build skills needed to have everyday conversations and also developing skills needed to present information to a group. Curriculum development is a long and hard process, but to be able to see the hard work start to pay off is extremely rewarding.

Armstrong, D. G. (2003). Curriculum today. Upper Saddle River (N.J.: Merrill Prentice Hall.

Fullan, M (2002). The change leader. Educational Leadership, 59(8), 16-20.

Mathews, D (1997). The lack of a public for public schools. Phi Delta Kappan, 78(10), 741-743