



## ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY & UNIVERSITY

MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA  
ESTABLISHED 1898

### Personal Philosophy of Education

*Excerpted from the Faculty Handbook 2017; pgs. 15-16; part E*

#### **E. PERSONAL PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION**

Professors, like other professionals, can easily become absorbed by their immediate day to day tasks and lose sight of the value and purpose of what they do. It can be all too easy to focus on “just making it to the end of the semester.” One important part of the faculty portfolio is the philosophy of education statement. This component shines a light on why one teaches and his teaching goals, and it can help the instructor see how his work furthers the mission and goals of STPSU.

Clear values and goals are also hallmarks of an instructor’s unique identity and they help faculty be more purposeful and strategic educators. They also make it easier to evaluate which elements and methods of teaching are philosophically consistent and which need to be adjusted.

Carefully spelled-out philosophies of education – articulating “why” I teach as I teach – facilitate dialogue and collaboration among faculty, and help both faculty and the institution to assess and evaluate. Communicating a clear philosophy of education to students treats them like adults. Students may feel less like passive objects of the professor’s ministrations, and more invited to actively collaborate in a common process. A professor who periodically revisits, clarifies, and adjusts his/her philosophy of education is also a fine role model for life-long learning.

STPSU professors are asked to articulate their personal philosophy of education in two type-written pages or less. The large question to be answered in a statement of philosophy is: "Why do I teach as I teach?" Here are some smaller questions that may help get you started:

- What motivates me to learn about this subject?
- What are the opportunities and constraints under which I learn and others learn?
- What do I expect to be the outcomes of my teaching?