Mrs. Shively Smith’s Philosophy

**I believe that children:**

* **Need to feel safe, respected, and happy.**
* **Have something to offer to enrich the lives of all of us.**
* **Learn best when they experience the positive and negative consequences of their actions.**
* **Need activities that stimulate learning by involving the child in a variety of ways.**
* **Need to learn in an intimate setting. Large class sizes must be broken down into smaller groups.**
* **Are unique, and each have their own individual timing of growth and development.**
* **Gain self-esteem by successfully completing tasks by themselves, not by receiving rewards or praise. Stickers, smile faces, and prizes are just the icing on the cake.**
* **Cannot be judged by test scores.**

**I believe that great teachers:**

* **Have an enormous responsibly to help raise a generation of successful, fulfilled, and empowered people.**
* **Work with materials and activities that are developmentally appropriate for the students.**
* **Work with parents, teachers of special areas, resource people, and whomever and whatever is needed for the benefit of each child.**
* **Study how children learn in order to learn the best way to teach.**
* **Need to provide an environment sensitive to diversity to prepare children to live and work in an ever-changing, global society.**
* **Must have a great sense of humor, be willing to work beyond the school day, and buy additions materials out of his/her own pocket.**