**Leadership Framework**

**Lynden Briscoe**

1. Philosophy of Education:

I believe that every child can learn no matter their background, skill level or history. I believe that a teacher is an artist whose canvas is the human mind and spirit and that molding a child is one of the greatest responsibilities I could undertake. I believe that all children not only can learn, but have a desire to learn and my job as a teacher will be to find out how to bring that trait to the surface. I believe that through good classroom management and focusing on positive reinforcement instead of punishment children can have a positive self-view and a stronger desire to perform to their fullest potential.

As humans we are constantly learning and it is something that does not stop until life stops. I believe that all children are the same, and it just takes some longer to get from point A to point B. As a teacher it is my responsibility to differentiate my instruction so as to bring all students to the finish line in their own way, but with the same end result: newfound knowledge. I am a very strong believer that language acquisition and comprehension lead to success in life and I actively promote vocabulary building in my class. I not only want to nurture the knowledge my students gain, but I want to foster an environment where mind, soul, and body are encouraged to be better.

1. Vision for Learners:

My personal vision for learners would be to be a part of an environment that accepts them for their differences. I believe that all students should be exposed to any learning aids that are available. One of the most powerful things I have ever had a professor say to me was, “The breaks in curbs are meant for people who are in wheelchairs, but everybody at one point or another uses these for convenience.” To me this spoke volumes, and it made me realize that I don’t really believe in differentiation within the general education classroom. I believe that all learners benefit from teachers using all means to help their students learn. I think if one accommodation helps one student it would definitely help all students. My vision for learners is to be a part of an environment that provides as many “sidewalk ramps” as necessary. I also feel that while “grade level” and peer comparison has its place that the more important way to judge student success is against their own personal growth.

1. Vision for Teachers:

My vision for teachers is to be part of a school that is not focused on testing success, but is instead focused on student success. I think it would be amazing to be a part of a school where administration was responsible for teaching at least one class, so that they didn’t forget what it is like to be in the classroom and all that is involved in that. I would love for all teachers to have access to technology and the funds with which to provide all the means necessary to reach every student. I think that having the proper intervention support on campus would be awesome, as well as the time and class size to have the opportunity to work one on one with students on a weekly basis.

1. Vision for the Organization:

My personal vision for St. Mark’s Episcopal would be to continue on with the technology implementation that is currently taking place. Having an ipad for every middle school student allows the teachers so much more freedom in lesson planning and adapting their curriculum to modern day standards. My next step would be to add a position in to the middle school for academic support. Despite our population having very few learning disabilities, there are still those among our students who struggle. Currently every single grade level through 4th grade has an assistant who is able to pull out students who are struggling. This abruptly changes once students reach middle school which I think puts these kids at a disadvantage. There are those amongst our students who have grown accustomed to extra time and attention and I think an academic support specialist would be a way to solve this in the middle school.

1. Method of Vision Attainment:

I think that an academic support specialist should be hired part time for the whole middle school. I think that teachers should nominate students for different times. Every student should have access to this person, even the students who don’t normally struggle. At some point in time we all need a little bit of extra help, and I think that a part time person on campus who can intervene before a child gets too lost would be a good way to transition our students from daily available help to the middle school expectations.