Parents, & society at large, entrust their beloved children to elementary teachers. You will teach so much immeasurably more than just subject matter ...

- how to interact with peers
- social growth & maturity
- attitudes toward knowledge
- nourish, facilitate, & instill the desires & abilities to learn
- responses to meeting difficulties.

The consequences of your efforts, your spirit, & your effectiveness in this enterprise can last a lifetime.

A true teacher bears a love of learning, and in a different sense a love for her/his students.

The challenges of learning, math or other, present occasions to build one’s personal character. I believe that a true teacher has experienced this with some level of self-awareness, and works to convey this to her/his students.

Teaching is a vocation in which You have direct influence on hundreds of lives. It is truly an incredible responsibility. It is vitally important that teachers set high expectations for themselves & their students. Daily preparation of interesting & instructive lessons for some twenty-five active students of varying aptitudes & learning styles is intensely challenging. May this be a successful, challenging, growthful, fulfilling semester!

In light of the nature of the elementary education vocation, this course expects a mature & dedicated involvement on the part of each student. I shall dedicate myself as well to this enterprise. I am not perfect, and may frustrate You on occasion. I may challenge You, whether in class or on exams, desirous of facilitating your being the best You can be. Please do not take my challenges & hopefully constructive criticisms as being rude or disrespectful. Of course, our relationship is not & should not be of the same nurturing nature as the elementary classroom which You will someday lead. You are welcome to regularly ask questions & put forth comments or constructive criticisms about the nature of the course, but expect to be regularly challenged and to work hard & persistently.