

Teaching Philosophy

As an art educator I aim to implement curiosity with enthusiasm about the world in the every day classroom. I aspire to be an educator that considers an individual's needs, meeting the students at their level yet holding them to high standards. I believe students learn best when they are given opportunities to take ownership of the art making process. Students will take ownership through creative choices with lessons thoughtfully scaffold for building confidence and skill sets. Students will utilize the creative process as a way to deepen their sense of self and develop skills that are vital to success both in and out of school. I believe an inner magic occurs when a student allows the connectivity between their minds and hands to come forth.

My classroom is a place to indulge in our emotions to heighten our awareness of feelings and how that's portrayed through art making. Projects display personal expression with an open imagination. My class will ask students to tap into their inner voices to develop their identity, individually as well within their cultures. Through art we can understand each other and the surrounding world better. Students will be able to develop this understanding through visual inquiry of contemporary and historical artists. I believe art history is important because it is a reflection of specific time periods that can help solidify the understanding of world history. This can broaden students' minds to create art that is not only a response to the world we live in but also the one we hope for in the future.

Furthermore, I believe students learn best through exploration of conceptual ideas during class discussions around complex themes. Risk taking conceptually as well as with materials will be a central idea in my class. This act of risk taking will push students to new levels of divergent thinking through the process of problem solving with different art materials. Additionally, I want to inspire my students to reflect on society and not accept things the way they are because that is what they are told. Through investigations the students will make personal discoveries and find social truths. I know I will have done this well when students recognize the value within themselves and their personal expression found in their art.

Collaboration will be a key component in exploring our ideas as a large group as well as smaller groups within the classroom. Therefore, in my class students will be encouraged to rely on one another as leaders of the classroom and in the school community. They will be able to do this because I will allow my students to emphasize what is important to them through listening and not dictation. I will know I have done this well when students lead critiques, open discussions, and seek material demonstrations.

Overall my class will be an inclusive positive environment for limitless expression without judgment.