

Educational Philosophy

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Role of Art Education

Art education provides strong foundations for fostering confidence, creativity, and independent intellectuals. Keeping the curriculum student-centered, enables young artists to explore, push boundaries, and self-motivate in their unique learning style. This provides an educational experience where all students can find success and where success is directly related to a student's willingness to explore curiosity.

The role of art education is vital as it teaches critical and creative thinking; planning and design; self-reflection and introspection; and presentation. Art students cultivate these skills in every aspect of their learning in the art classroom. These are necessary skills for the 21st century that can rarely be found in other classrooms. Art provides an avenue for students to feel ownership over their learning. When students feel responsibility for their education, authentic learning occurs.

Role of the Art Educator

Art educators should be facilitators, responsible for creating an atmosphere of trust and caring where students feel free to fully explore their world. Art teachers, therefore, must understand whom they are teaching. As an art educator, it is my role to provide guidance and scaffolding while maintaining an element of independence in all projects. This pushes students out of their comfort zone and allows them to understand their unique learning capabilities. By connecting the ideas of personal development, contemporary culture, and genuine interest in students' lives, art educators create personal relationships with students founded on authenticity.

Classroom Environment

My art classroom is a self-created blend of Teaching for Artistic Behaviors (TAB), the Artistic Thinking Process, the Modern Classroom, and Studio Habits of Mind. Through this framework, students take hold of their education which permits them to create a class that addresses their interests and ideas. The art classroom easily acts as an arena for multiculturalism, inclusion, and safe spaces, and therefore, propagates an ability to fight stereotypes and stigmas students may face. These elements create a strong, lasting, and critical experience for all students. Creating an environment where success is based on challenging oneself, pushing past "cant's," and exploration through experimentation, students are given an environment that allows for mistakes and genuine experiences that develops deeper learning.