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Personal Teaching Philosophy

Art is a term that reaches far beyond its surface level definition. It is the use of creativity and innovation while also an exploration of community, self, and the world around us. I love the arts as they were a stronghold and foundation throughout my educational years. In turn, I hope to create the same opportunities for as many students that pass through my classroom as I can. Anyone can learn how to paint or draw. These are skills that can be taught and learned. What is really important about art is not the things that you see hanging up on a wall or displayed in a case; rather, it is the growth and the character that they learn while making art. The process is more important than the product. An artistic product might be something useful or aesthetically pleasing, but what can be taken from the artistic process is dedication, passion, empathy, connection, and personal reflection. These mentalities and characteristics positively carry over into every subject, career, and lifestyle.

Every student is an artist and every person is artistic, we all just express it in unique and diverse ways. To achieve these ideals through my teaching, I believe it all starts in the classroom climate that is facilitated and the curriculum that is designed for students. Empathy and open-mindedness is gained through respectful listening and honest conversation. The art classroom should be a warm and inviting environment where students can feel comfortable being themselves and sharing their artistic expression. A climate should be safe and supportive so that a student feels okay when they fail at something because they can learn from themselves and their peers to get up and try again. Every student is unique and diverse and will have a variety of personal or academic needs. By designing curriculum that allows room for accommodation as well as relevance and connection to student's lives means that it can be useful and relatable to all. Students are still growing and learning about themselves as people in the world, a happy medium of a structured environment with creative liberties is where I find the best learning can take place.

Being an art educator not only means teaching about Monet's paintings or teaching drawing techniques, it also includes supporting students in their life endeavors. Even if my student never picks up a paint brush or a piece of clay to create visual art after my class, I still find these things important to teach. Art has the capacity to expand our minds and help us develop as people. We all have our place in the world, but art has a place in every part of it. Whether the art be design thinking, creative problem solving, or innovative ideas, it is still art. My hope is that when students walk out of my classroom and into the world that they leave a little better than when they came in on the first day. I strive for them to find confidence and a voice for themselves because in today's world, everyone should feel free to be themselves. I continually try to become the best version of myself that I can achieve and I want to help my students do the same.