

Teaching Philosophy

Equal education is the universal right of every child. For me, this means that students receive teaching and support that favor all rather than a few. With this in mind, educators like myself must respect all students' individual abilities, learning styles, intellectual desires, as well as cultural backgrounds. A student-centered, constructivist approach to teaching is the means for this education. Through this type of comprehensive and balanced education, the development of personal integrity and community responsibility within each student can be achieved. It is through authentic instruction and assessment that this development is attained.

School curriculum teaches children how to think and what to think about. I believe the curriculum must make real-world learning connections and involve the active construction of knowledge. In addition, it must also balance the increased demands of accountability and high-performance standards with the students' interests and needs. Art education has an essential place in this curriculum. The study of art helps students understand themselves and the world around them. In all cultures, art has told human stories, helped to let us know who we are, and how and what we believe. By making, interpreting and learning about art, students engage in communicating, reflecting, and responding to the meaning of their lives and the lives of others.

Students actively build systems of meaning and understandings of reality through their experiences and interactions. As an art educator, I supply experiences that prepare students with a state of mind that has the ability to see, to imagine, to share and to understand. Students build both inquiry and critical thinking skills through these opportunities of personalized art making. This higher cognitive thinking promotes problem solving skills and social understandings. It is this authentic instruction and assessment that has the power to help students express themselves, learn about themselves and others, develop critical thinking, and essentially, become caring and democratic citizens.