

My Teaching Philosophy:

As a teacher, I encourage confidence in my students as well as a sense of curiosity. I bring a love of learning to my classrooms, and that transfers to my students. I take my students to a better understanding of theater and performance by digging in and provoking thoughtful questions in which they can explore a deeper understanding of their art. My goal is that while studying Theater, my students also learn life skills in collaboration and creativity.

I cultivate a desire for my students to latch on to the performing arts. This may be as an audience member, performer, crew member, designer, etc., and I do this by providing a joyful space full of laughter and discovery through focused and targeted lessons. No matter what my students choose to learn in the future or what careers they have, they take positive lessons from my teaching and bring them into those situations. For example, if a student of mine is pursuing a career in marketing, they will go back to my lessons in “idea generation” and how to captivate an audience. If a student of mine is pursuing a career in performance, they will have built a foundation from working with me that emphasizes collaboration and how much of a team effort theatre is.

Student Learning Outcomes can be assessed through performance, but performance may not always mean how the student does on stage. Student performance can be assessed through group projects, discussions, presentations, papers, or coming to class with an openness to learn. I am a firm believer that while tests can help create a baseline for students’ progress, they are not a good way of judging a student’s learning or knowledge. Assessing performance allows us as teachers to better evaluate what our students retain and really understand.

I know that my teaching has reached my students because they show improvement and success in their performance. When students find joy in their work and curiosity for future learning, then I know I have succeeded. As a teacher, I am committed to my own learning and improvement. I know I continue to find joy in teaching and learning directly from my students, and that when I meet my students with understanding and openness to work with them, they will learn by example and thrive in the space I create.

Each student’s needs are different, and I am committed to treating each student as a bright individual while working towards healthy group relationships. All people should have access to education. I foster an environment of growth for every student by offering my support to their projects and creative ideas through time and direct feedback. No matter whether the need is medical, emotional, financial, etc, I do all in my power to help my students achieve new levels of growth and gain the knowledge that they came to learn from me.

Teaching is immensely important to me, and it has been a great happiness in my life. I value the collaboration, the shared human experience of learning, and the successes of my students.