

Teaching Philosophy

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The art room has many purposes and functions. It should always provide a positive environment that can cater to students on all levels of ability and creativity. Every step of a project should have opportunities for problem solving where students can figure out creative solutions individually and collaboratively. Lessons need to provide constant engagement with the medium, subject matter, and environment. They always connect to an artist, art movement, and/or different cultures to connect to other subjects and create a more interesting and informative experience for the students. My lessons are designed so the students learn multiple techniques and are then able to execute them in their own style. Many even focus on combining multiple mediums together.

It is very clear to me that the art room should constantly be a safe and secure environment for all students. Making sure class critiques are constructive instead of judgemental is important and establishing respect is also key. It is my goal that the students respect each other, art in general, and that I have respect for and from my students. My art students are given a lot of responsibilities. They are responsible for keeping their own set of materials clean and organized, making sure they use time wisely, and with creative choices.

I also allow students to have lunch in my room if they wish to continue to work on their projects. I have noticed that also giving students the opportunity to stay after school is important, which is why I choose a day of the week to be a designated "After School Art" day. I usually leave it open for students who want more one on one instruction, who could not take an art class, or who wants to learn about a new medium or method of art. Doing these things definitely takes a bit more time and energy from me, but it builds a strong foundation for a safe space. It also allows the students to feel more comfortable and open with me. As an Art Educator, I am informative, trusting, and excited about what I am teaching.

An art space does not only have to be in the art room. I understand the importance of designing lessons that can be taken outside, to museums, or that connect to the surrounding community. You can learn a great deal by connecting art to the immediate and whole world. Connecting art to technology is also incredibly important by having students document work, use photoshop, and update a class art site. All in all, a lot should be happening in an art room and the possibilities are endless. Every school deserves a passionate and driven art educator.