Teaching Philosophy

Hello,

I am an art educator because I believe that art is inseparable from our everyday lives. Art is crucial to how we perceive the world around us, express ourselves and connect with other humans. My teaching philosophy is that we are all creators, in some way or another. I truly believe this, and I hope to show students that art isn’t just for one group of people. I hope that my future classroom will represent a group of people that know who they are and are able to freely express themselves. I want to emphasize the presence and experiences of every student. I want to put a heavy importance on the relationships that are formed in the class room, as well. I believe that the best thing we could ever do is share our lives with one another, and I hope students are set up to do so. I value my own relationships with students and want to be someone they can trust. This will create a safe and fruitful learning environment for students to discover new ideas.

This past summer I had an incredible experience studying abroad in Florence, Italy. My time in Italy taught me so much about the world. But, it also taught me about the power of artwork. I went to museum after museum, surrounded by people from all over the world. Few of us spoke the same language, shared common heritage or beliefs and yet somehow, we all were understanding the same piece of artwork. I spent a lot of my time crying because during those moments, the power of visual art became clear to me on a whole other level. The beauty of artwork that was created long before I existed is still bringing people together today to have a common experience and take away. Artwork extends beyond language and differences to bring people to a mutual understanding and purpose. I had never experienced such a strong unspoken bond with other humans that I didn’t even know. My time abroad solidified my belief in the power of teaching art. My passion for art education became stronger and I am confident that our jobs as art educators can change the world. I hope that my enthusiasm for the arts will be evident in my attitude and commitment in my classroom and school.

I am also minoring in Special Education, as it is another topic that I am passionate about. The learning and inclusion of every student is something I stand firmly on. I want to offer the same access to learning for every student and provide the level of support that each one of them needs to succeed. I aspire to create a space of mutual respect and an inclusive environment. I want my classroom to be a place where collaboration is expected and relationships are formed with everyone.

I want to lead my students into a realm of learning where they don’t need me to tell them what to make. My goal is to give them the launching ground to discover their own meaningful artwork from their own unique experiences. We all experience the world in vastly different ways. Their artwork should reflect this. I want my students to become problem solvers who can see the world in a variety of perspectives. They need space to learn from their own process. As this is something I have learned from my own experiences, I hope to offer the same to my future students. Through the use of art, they can come to a better understanding of themselves, their abilities and their worth as a human.