

## My philosophy of Art Education

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“Are the arts important in education? I submit that they are more than important. The arts are central, the arts are at the heart of all we need to know and should be teaching.”

-Pam Stephens

I believe that Art is universal, the language of all humankind. Art is a way to communicate and make connections to the past, the present and the future. I am a passionate art teacher who values knowledge, creativity and experimentation in my life and in my classroom. Art should be accessible to all students through a program that sets clear expectations and provides a non critical learning environment where differences are appreciated, curiosity is ignited and the artist is nurtured in pursuit of their own voice and happiness.

I chose to be an Art Teacher because I have a fascination with the creative process and how children and adults learn through this process. The inception of an idea, the act of creating, risk taking, challenging themselves and ultimately reflecting upon their accomplishments which lead to a sense of value and pride is so important in being human. Because Art is ever evolving and changing there is a constant influx of knowledge that I also find fascinating and so exciting. Being able to share this excitement and knowledge with children is what makes me happy. Differentiated instruction, integration with other subjects and learning how to effectively use Art criticism within the Art studio and classroom are also important parts of my teaching.

My classroom is a happy, bright place where modeling, coaching, reflecting, problem solving and critical thinking are evident. Art is subjective but I believe that students still need to be meaningfully assessed and also need to participate in their own assessment. Continuity of curriculum from one grade to the next is an important goal of mine as well as setting clear expectations within the Art room. Questioning, higher level thinking and the freedom to make mistakes are all accepted and expected. The use of technology is also important in making lasting connections through Art.

In conclusion, I do believe that Art is central in education today. Art promotes higher level thinking which contributes to and supports interpersonal relations, attitudes and emotions, creative problem solving and ultimately thinking outside of the box. These attributes are highly valued in all areas of society.