



TEACHING PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

Art is a catalyst that leads every child to become an independent thinker. I believe that all teachers are in the unique position to be an influence in a child's life and it is my goal is to provide students with the tools they need to meet their full potential academically, creatively, socially, and emotionally. I believe that I am responsible not only for students' educational growth, but for their growth socially. I will help each child to become independent and gain self-confidence.

To foster a child's academic and creative development I will have to create a learning environment where each child feels comfortable exploring new ideas and asking questions. Being curious is an essential part of the learning process and I will encourage my students to ask questions and not to look towards only me for the answers but to find different answers in new places. I will encourage students to develop strong ideas and to feel comfortable sharing them and to be able to articulate these ideas.

Feeling self-conscious is a part of life every person has to deal with, but I feel that having less self-conscious thoughts allows people to feel more capable of free self expression. I have observed children become self-conscious about their art saying "This is wrong, I made a mistake". The great thing about art and life is that mistakes make something unique and they are a part of learning. Art is one of the only areas in academia where students can make mistakes and still succeed. I want all of my students to feel that mistakes are nothing to be ashamed of, to embrace the mistakes in their work as a part of their unique identity. I want to emphasize how important it is for every student to like themselves the way they are. When a child respects themselves they can feel comfortable expressing themselves, exploring new things and can better respect others.

I believe that the visual arts can do so much good for a child's personal development, when I see a child look at what they have created I can see the feeling of accomplishment and self worth on their face. I want to bring that feeling to children living in all circumstances, everyone deserves to feel that happiness. I want to be a positive influence in every student's life and I want to instill in every student a love for learning and the arts. I hope to give children the opportunity to learn and be creative and to develop a passion for learning and a love for the creative arts. I believe that every child is capable of being a positive influence in the world.

Mari
MARI MANSFIELD