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TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

Education

It is my belief that education cultivates extraordinary human beings. Students should be provided with the knowledge to live fuller lives, the opportunities to expand their horizons, and the resources to access that knowledge and those opportunities. Thus, my mission as an educator is to provide the knowledge, opportunities, and resources my students need in their pursuit of happiness. This mission of mine is not only for the betterment of my students but for the world at large. I hope to create a happier, more empathetic world through my work as an educator.

Teaching

My approach to teaching is most informed by *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* by Paulo Freire. I am a strong believer in providing students with problems, not solutions. I want students to work together to create solutions and find answers. Why should we believe that something is the answer just because it was written down in a book? Let's try it ourselves! Let's question it, tear it apart, and put it back together. This results in a much richer experience for both the students and me. I choose to facilitate this exploration in a very honest way. If I think the solution students have found could be better, I will let them know. My job is to push students to be better, not let them settle for "good enough".

Curriculum

Specifically in my role as a theatre teacher, I am focused on 3 main skills in my curriculum: Emotional intelligence, Speech, and Collaboration. Students will gain a wide range of knowledge in my class about theatre, history, literature, and other integrated subjects. However, the learning objectives of my program are that students can analyze their emotions and others', speak with clear diction and volume, and collaboratively contribute to common goals. These are the skills that will set my students up for lifelong success. Of course, the importance of an artistic outlet can not be understated. Time spent in my classroom provides students with the knowledge to be competitive contributors, the opportunity to explore the performing arts, and the resources to express themselves. Ultimately, students find my class fun. This is how I, as a theatre teacher, support my students in their pursuit of happiness.

Example

If you were to walk into my classroom to see this work, you might hear it before you see it. Students would be engaged in advocating for themselves and their needs, in a circle practicing elocution through conservatory-style technical training, and creating theatre in community. Guardians would see students perform electric dances, bold characters and of course, the beloved school musical.