

ART TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

My teaching philosophy is grounded in the belief that art is my vehicle, and teaching is my purpose. I am deeply passionate about both. I also believe that **students themselves are masterpieces**, each one unique and special in their own way. One of my favorite parts of teaching art is seeing the moment a student learns a new technique and you can see it in their face, they've gained a new sense of confidence. In those moments, a bond is created because you helped them find their voice and gave them the space and patience to grow.

I believe art is more than just making something that looks "good." Art is about expression, exploration, and learning how to think through challenges. It allows students to tap into their thoughts and emotions, solve problems, and make sense of the visual world around them. By exposing students to art and encouraging personal expression, I help them build connections between their artwork and the world they experience every day.

In my classroom, I create a balance between structure and creative freedom. I teach students how to care for materials and follow procedures so our space runs smoothly, but within those boundaries, they are free to explore and make meaningful choices in their work. I also recognize the importance of focus, and I incorporate intentional quiet work time so students can fully engage in their ideas without distraction. I believe some of our best thinking happens when we are given the space to slow down and create with intention.

I prioritize the creative process over perfecting the final product. I want students to reflect on their work, talk about their choices, and build confidence in their artistic voice. Through discussion and reflection, students learn that their ideas matter. Whether it is sharing in a circle or simply explaining their thinking, these moments help students grow as both artists and communicators.

Ultimately, my goal is to cultivate a classroom where students feel confident, curious, and excited about their art. I want them to leave my room not only with a few skills, but with a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them. More importantly, I want them to continue creating, exploring, and thinking like artists long after they leave my classroom.