

Joanna Hayes

Teaching Philosophy

My high school theatre teacher would hand-write thank you cards for each and every cast member involved in our spring musical and then give them out to each of us amidst the chaos before opening night. Her dedication to and support of each of her students was astounding, and seeing her words written on that card not only reaffirmed my knowledge of how much she believed in me, but they reaffirmed my belief in myself and in what I was capable of. This is the kind of educator I aspire to be.

Community is the basis for a successful classroom learning experience as is establishing an environment where students feel respected and safe to be themselves wholly and freely, which encourages both creativity and exploration in the educational setting. As a teacher of the arts, supporting the development of my students' passions is of the utmost priority to me when it comes to supporting them as learners. Along with supporting my students as learners, it is important to recognize their individuality and understand that each and every one of them comes from unique backgrounds filled with wildly differing life experiences.

Providing a well-rounded, multicultural learning experience that involves representation of student backgrounds is highly important to me. With a multicultural learning approach comes an equitable learning approach. My classroom will be a place where students are offered the level of support they need and where opportunities are provided to engage in multiple intelligences and in various learning styles that meet students where they are. Discovery of and reinforcement of social-emotional learning skills through classroom engagement will ensure that my students learn how to self-manage and how to make responsible decisions, while being personally and socially aware in their perspectives.

It is my duty as an educator of the arts to help my students break the mold of adhering to standardization in order to redefine the concept of scholarship. As a teacher, I will work actively

to never stop learning. I will learn from my students, my peers, and my fellow artists. Continual growth as an educator and as an artist ensures an ability to adapt to changing times and evolving pedagogies. Today's students are the creators of tomorrow, which is why, as educators, we must provide them with the tools and tactics necessary for success.

As explored above, my teaching philosophy is an integration of my personal and pedagogical values. Though a seemingly simple concept, it requires a thoughtful, multidimensional, and layered approach. In short, as an educator, I want to give back to my students the many wonderful gifts that my teachers have given to me throughout my educational career.