

Samantha Lynn

Teaching Philosophy

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My nana was an art teacher who babysat me when I was a child while my mom was at work. Her art lessons taught me that art education could be empowering, fun, and personally expansive, and above all that art ed can be rooted in love. In my own classroom, I create a learning environment where effort and personal growth is more important than perfection. Students will have access to lessons rooted in art from a range of diverse cultures; lessons which focus on empathy toward the non-human world; and lessons which encourage personal reflection. When students leave my class, their viewpoint concerning the scope and possibilities of art will have grown.

From my perspective, the ideal classroom is a space where students are given constructive, individualized pathways to growth. I have learned in my student teaching experience with high school students that progress looks different for each unique student, and each student's contribution is valuable. In my classroom I will facilitate age-appropriate learning for the collective group by implementing scaffolding, and involving students in their own assessment (through peer-to-peer assessment and self-reflection practices). I will implement student choice, in terms of assignment options, as often as is feasible to provide students with independence.

Ultimately, my goals as a teacher are to inspire my students to feel interconnected to the art classroom community, and in touch with their potential as creative beings. In the past, I have been able to inspire students by getting to know them and their needs, offering them projects

which are fine-tuned to their outlooks, and offering support where needed in a range of presentations (audibly, textually, and visually). Moving into the future, I hope to continue to educate myself by attending professional development courses, particularly in the areas of disability education, anti-racist educator talks, and talks which center around infusing awareness of the natural world into the art classroom.