Teaching Philosophy

As a dance educator, I intend to plant a seed of positivity, acceptance, and tenacity within my students. I understand that each student will need individual direction and time to grow, as well as the knowledge that they are important and accepted. Growing up in Louisiana, I didn’t have access to dance in school or really that much art at all. Not only do I feel it’s a good thing, but I feel it’s necessary for children at all ages and stages of development to be exposed to different art forms that will help them become creative, thoughtful, and courageous learners throughout the rest of their education. I will provide students with a foundation in dance and creative movement that encourages them to explore the connection of their mind and body, think deeper about the role of dance in society and in their lives, and develop their creativity to its full potential.

I believe that each learner has unique strengths and needs. I understand that there is no “standard” class I can give to all of my learners, I must adapt and adjust for the situation and what the learners will need. I must emphasize learners’ strengths while also encouraging them to overcome weakness. I understand that students learn in different ways, and will need different forms of guidance while developing creativity and harnessing dance techniques. I will provide an inclusive and empowering learning experience that fits all these molds.

I believe that dance should not be treated as a subject unrelated to others. I will tie in other aspects of their lives, as well as subjects they are learning in other classes to provide a well rounded and relevant dance education. Dance is a vital part of culture, and must be treated as such. Through relating dance and dance history lessons to students in their sociocultural context, and to history as a whole I will encourage them to think critically about dance’s role in our world.

I believe that students should feel emotionally engaged in a dance or creative movement class. One should not ignore or discourage unwanted emotions, but allow learners a chance to express all that they are feeling and channel that energy through movement. Every person has a creative voice and something important to say, and it is my job to facilitate the search for it.

I believe that students should always be encouraged to question. It is so important in education to instill the idea that inquiry is necessary, because there is always more to learn. This not only makes one a more intelligent student, but it makes one a more valuable member of our rapidly changing society.

Most of all, I believe that students must feel safe in their learning environment. Students should be allowed to learn free of fear, discrimination, or unrealistic expectations. I hope that if students are immersed in this empowering creative environment, then they will inspire others to question, to search for their individual artistic voice, to advocate for dance and the arts, and to ultimately make the world a better place by passing along the torch of creativity and generosity.