

Learning is a lifelong process driven by curiosity. With this understanding, every student has potential, regardless of the challenges they may face. Educators should encourage students to build from their existing knowledge, explore their interests, and develop their skills, which fosters a genuine passion for learning. I believe in every students' ability to succeed, even when they feel disconnected from the academic curriculum or question the value of school. As an educator, I will strive to connect with my students and guide their growth in a positive and productive direction.

Theatre education welcomes all students, recognizing that everyone brings unique strengths and perspectives to the classroom, regardless of whether they intend to pursue acting. I remain open to my students' backgrounds and experiences, allowing them to inform and guide my teaching approach. By prioritizing the understanding of my students as individuals, I can help them to make meaningful connections that support both their academic and artistic progression.

As a theatre educator, I strive to teach my subject clearly and insightfully. I aim to move at a pace in which students are challenged and engaged by new material, while being able to apply prior knowledge. I view education as an opportunity to spark new ideas and build connections; when students develop a strong understanding of the fundamentals of theatre, they gain the confidence to explore new approaches and apply their learning creatively.

Education at its core, is the nurturing of a curious, adaptable, and open mind. By modeling a sense of curiosity and openness, teachers help foster the healthy interactions needed to support

learning. People need to connect, and while individuals may not fully understand one another's experiences, they must recognize that these complexities add a richness and beauty to humanity. Encouraging students to consider concepts beyond their own experience promotes compassion and productive collaboration. By welcoming diversity and listening to others, the classroom becomes a space for empathy and experimentation, where students can expand their knowledge in meaningful, interconnected ways. A classroom grounded in trust allows students to share reactions, ideas, and questions without fear, supporting both artistic and personal growth.

I believe that learning happens through experience and reflection. Without recognizing the value of an experience, learners can become stagnant and struggle to grow. Reflection is essential, but it must be paired with opportunities to apply new understanding and gain new experience. Students must be willing to develop the courage needed to question established patterns and self-limiting beliefs. Teaching the difficult, essential skills of honesty and adaptability is key to fostering self-motivated learning and perseverance.

Theatre teachers play a crucial role in presenting a range of material that both engages and challenges students. By reading, interpreting, and performing these works, students gain insight into different cultures, eras, and perspectives. This exposure enriches their understanding of the human experience and highlights the transformative power of storytelling. When students are able to connect their personal interests and skills to the curriculum, they become more willing to branch out and explore new ideas and perspectives.

In the classroom, technology can distract from the immersive nature of theatre, but it also offers valuable tools. I believe technology should be used sparingly and primarily to support lectures, and as accommodations that ensure all students can participate fully. For example, technology is essential in technical theatre, preparatory writing, research, and sharing

information. I aim to thoughtfully integrate technology only where it enhances learning and accessibility to maintain the integrity of theatre education.

Students drawn to theatre have a desire to express themselves in ways that they may not be able to in other subjects. Their interest might reflect a desire to explore the complexities of the human experience, develop a grounded personal strength, or grow as communicators through artistic performance. It is my role as an educator to guide this process, sparking a curiosity for learning and finding meaningful connections that promote growth. Theatre is a visceral, active, and creative discipline that demands presence, patience, courage, and introspection. Through this work, I aim to help students become compassionate, self-assured individuals as well as competent actors.