

Taylor Lawson

Teaching Philosophy

I believe my job, as an educator is to help develop thinkers, individuals, inventors, and innovators. Srinivasan Sriram, an Indian educator said, “A teacher’s purpose is not to create students in his own image, but to develop students who can create their own image,” and every day as an educator this is what I strive to do. I believe educating students to become productive and intelligent members of society can look like many things, not the least of which is being an instructor of content and skills, providing a firm and caring hand, and being a mentor and significant adult.

My goal as an educator is simple: I am a servant educator. I strive to serve the needs of my students. As an art teacher, I get to know almost every student, especially at the elementary level, in a different way than core content teachers. Unlike reading, writing, math, and science, art provides a forum for student success, expression, learning, and growth. I encourage lifelong learning in my classroom by encouraging students to follow their interests and study their passions and be curious. My job is to serve them by providing opportunities, coaching, and assessment in their growth as artists and learners.

The pillars of my teaching practice are formed by my broad educational goal—meet the needs of the students. For this reason, flexible learning environments, teaching for artistic behaviors, collaborative projects, and art work investigations are the foundations of any curriculum I develop. Each of these pillars focuses on meeting the learners where they are, providing them the environment and choices they need to grow, and challenging them to do their best. My role is to guide students to take charge of their own learning.

The world is changing. The learners we teach are changing, and therefore teaching needs to constantly change and evolve. As a teacher, I “practice” teaching. I don’t jump on every bandwagon, but I do study the best research-based practices as they emerge and incorporate them into my practice to provide the best education I can for all students. This belief is evident in my practice as I seek out opportunities to collaborate with others, to learn from experts, and to learn from my students. In today’s world, we are all teachers and students and we learn best when we collaborate and discover together.