In my art classroom, students experience the integration of visual, spatial, aural, textual, and social learning. I use an amalgamated approach to art education that is open to amendments and adjustments depending on the needs of my students. My classroom is a welcoming environment that embraces new technology, interdisciplinary lessons, culture, and diversity to ensure students feel comfortable and cultivate empathy for their peers and others. My students develop the cognitive and sensory skills needed to prepare for their futures in the global workforce and to see and understand the connections art has to their everyday lives. In my classroom, art is a powerful means of communication that requires critical thinking, creative expression, cultural and historical understanding, critical visual analysis, and awareness of aesthetics.

I motivate my students to set goals and strive for success. I try to be a role model for my students by readily listening to their concerns, offering guidance, and providing empathy.   
My classroom welcomes new technology to supplement lessons and provide an engaging learning experience. I challenge my students to excel but also guide them to the understanding that our experiences help us grow. Jerome Bruner’s theories on cognitive development and education are essential guidelines for my classroom learning experience. My students benefit from Discovery Learning by inquiring and then developing their own solutions in the process of understanding; It helps them feel pride and accomplishment. I reinforce student learning by using a Spiral Curriculum, which consists of revisiting topics and adding complexity over time. I use Visual Thinking Strategy and other democratic techniques to allow all my students’ voices to be heard.

I welcome diversity in my classroom. Including diverse cultures and perspectives through the study of art and art history is my priority. Students learn about the art history of the entire world, not primarily focused on western civilization. Through the analysis and exploration of Visual Culture, attention is given to gendered and racial inequality in modern art and society. In my classroom, students must have authentic experiences that are relevant to their lives and futures. All students should feel welcome, both in and out of my classroom. As an LGBTQIA ally, I want to ensure that my classroom is a safe space to support my students.

Community engagement is an important component of my art education classes. Having connections and pride in the community will encourage my students to respect their surroundings. I help my students gain a unique understanding of local and worldwide issues through social justice art.   
I require my students to critically analyze problems and inequalities in society and address them with their artwork. They can help bring awareness to issues of pollution by creating public art installations made of non-recyclable found objects. I find it vitally important that my students grow into socially conscious adults.

My assessment strategies are thoughtfully constructed and carefully integrated into class lessons. As an example of a summative assessment, I require my students to carry a sketchbook and fill it with artwork over the course of the school year. At the end of the year, they view each other’s sketchbooks and submit them for assessment. Afterwards, they add them to the art classroom’s library as inspiration for next year’s students. I view this and other collections of student work as a reflective practice, enabling me to see what works best with my students over time.

The subjects and themes for classroom study should be expanded to encompass the scope and scale of our students' experiences. This can include deeply felt and personal experiences, political and social issues, environmental decision-making, and images in mass media, as well as works of art, architecture, and design. (Tavin & Hausman 2004.)

In conclusion, I prepare my students for their futures by providing an experience that includes new technology, interdisciplinary lessons, culture, and diversity. By encouraging physical, mental, and social learning my students develop a greater understanding and empathy of the world around them. Art is a powerful means of communication that should be accessible to all.

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