

More Than Money

~A Teaching Philosophy~

I believe learning happens through activity, reflection, challenge and fun, and that praise can move mountains. I believe in showing students how to learn, and helping them know how they learn best. In the words of Einstein, I want to make everything “as simple as possible, but not simpler.” I want to maintain a sense of wonder and a sense of humor. To make this happen, I try to maintain a hands-on, colorful, lively environment filled with books and students’ writing and projects. My enrichment classes should say “Welcome and Wow.”

To encourage real-life learning I keep several activities and long-term projects simultaneously simmering at all times, helping students see how ideas develop, grow, and fit together. We aren’t afraid to change what isn’t working and to extend what is. We like to see how things can be done efficiently, effectively, creatively, and excellently. We learn by trial and error. The room isn’t always quiet. I want students to accept a huge amount of work and responsibility but also experience great freedom to explore and think outside the box (outside their seats, outside in our Literary Landscape too).

I embrace technology as well as arts and crafts “junque,” designer paper, magnetic poetry on cookie sheets, language games and puzzles, baskets of props for vocabulary skits, journal writing, art and music projects, hugs, and good old-fashioned stickers and “Fame and Glory” stamps.

Even on the longest, darkest, most frustrating days, I believe that education is the most engaging, hopeful, exuberant, community-building, mind-stretching pursuit imaginable. I am passionate about my own learning and my students’ learning. I want everything to be the best it can be, and I want to remain closely involved with my students, parents, and peers in this excellence, hope, and joy that is education.

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