

Laura Wagner

Teaching Philosophy

As a teacher, it is my priority to first and foremost care: care about the students well-being and care about their learning; to look at each student individually and as a part of the whole; to do my best to incorporate every learning style in the lessons to suit individual needs. I teach to be a loving source of assistance for students and strive to be a guiding light of inspiration for all that enter and exit my classroom.

I want to teach theatre to children because I feel that at the impressionable ages, theatre is the most effective tool for discovering what the Self is all about. I remember when I was in grade school, the best medicine to quelling life's difficulties was through the games, activities, lessons and friendships made in the theatre. I want to teach camaraderie and inter-personal skills through a theatrical medium. I teach that making mistakes is not the end of the world but an opportunity to grow. I seek to show children that the skills nurtured in a theatrical classroom can carry on throughout life and that expressing yourself on the stage can benefit your professional and inter/intra-personal life off the stage.

I teach by using active interaction with students. My classroom is typically set in a non-traditional manner, using every inch of the classroom as fair playing ground. I insist upon providing ample time on a stage to establish a level of comfort within its perimeter. I wish to define a safe space in which my students are free to feel comfortable and secure with themselves while breaking down barriers and nurturing confidence and creativity. By using interactive lessons, it is my hope that students will nurture relationships with fellow classmates and have experiences that they will forever look back upon as life-changing ones. It is my firm belief that the more active the student, the more learning takes place. Acting is *doing*, acting is *reaction*, and acting is *being*. In my classroom, the students will have the opportunity to put their thoughts into *action*.

My objective as a teacher is to provide an opportunity for students to learn more about their creative spirit through freedom, exploration, discovery, and expression of the Self.

Teaching Pledges:

#1 To be a positive influence and a positive voice for my field of study.

Starting Action: I will do this by expressing my enthusiasm for the subject material and by emitting positive energy.

#2 To not close myself up to new ideas and new experiences. I will be open and understanding when the time is right.

Starting Action: I will do this by doing my best to remain calm during chaos and to look at each moment as a learning opportunity for myself and for the students.

#3 To be a source of Light, Love and Inspiration for my students.

Starting Action: I will do this by being prepared, energetic, compassionate and supportive of and to their needs.