Philosophy of education

~ Kathleen Lynch ~

As a child, one of my earliest memories was climbing all the way to the top of the refrigerator to reach a box of crayons. Up until that point, my only artistic exposure had been observing my mother during her scrapbooking sessions and embroidery projects. Being self-expressive with my own art did not occur to me until I was able to make my first mark on a piece of paper. From that day on, I was hooked. I took up painting, sketching, and even modeling clay. In my teenage years, I was gifted my first drawing tablet, and my love of digital creation quickly took off. These passions eventually went towards pursuing a degree in animation and graphic design. However, my dream of becoming an art teacher was not fully realized until mid-way through my college education. I was graciously given an opportunity to visit an elementary school classroom and participate in multiple art projects with the students. I immediately fell in love with the profession, and it quickly became my most desired career.

I continued to expand my teaching abilities through several different school visits by witnessing a wide variety of teaching methods and classroom management styles from different art teachers throughout Tennessee. By observing those teachers, I was able to shape my own teaching style, that being a fusion of humor, enthusiasm, and encouragement. These are all attributes that I have found to be instrumental in fostering positive changes in struggling students. In my classroom, this unique blend creates an engaging and supportive environment that empowers students to express themselves creatively while building up their confidence as young artists.

My main philosophy of education is about integrating art through social and emotional techniques, and emphasizing the fact that every child can be an artist. I have a goal to help each of my students see themselves as individual creators and give them full confidence in their artwork. As an important aspect to my teaching style, I strongly believe that good classroom management can play a large role in creating a comfortable and calming environment for my students, and through that, I aim to build a structured, inclusive atmosphere for each child who enters my room. I have expectations that my students practice peer collaboration to help them gain new ideas from diverse perspectives. I would also like to pass on my enjoyment and passion for art history to my students, building up their natural curiosity about the world.

Overall, every student should feel like they belong in my room and are capable of learning. To me, teaching is ultimately an opportunity to learn from my students, alongside my students, and to encourage a growing curiosity about the wonderful world of art.