Chloe Matchett: Teaching Philosophy

I take inspiration in the word nurture. The name Chloe means to bloom and grow, as explained to me by my mother. As I aged, this comment stuck with me. I took great interest in gardening and growing plants during the covid pandemic. The idea of caring for a living thing, nurturing it, and watching it grow is healing. I take these feelings and project them in my way of teaching. People are like plants. They are individualized and grow at their own pace. Each plant needs individualized care to thrive. This is important when working with children. I like to encourage and nudge students towards healthy artistic and personal growth. My philosophy is based upon the foundation of trust, respect, kindness, and identity growth. All of these things are important to help form a well-rounded student. With kindness comes respect, and with respect comes trust, which provides a safe space for identity growth both artistically and personally.

On the topic of teaching students, I feel it is important to be diverse in the type of projects and artists you choose to introduce. To explore different forms of art making and materials, you need to introduce different artists… people of color, women, contemporary artists. Do not just stick to the master artists that most people become familiar with. It’s important as a teacher to continue to further your knowledge. Be an example for your students that you can be a lifelong learner. Collaboration is another important aspect of current and future teaching. This concept goes beyond the art classroom, and helps establish connection in the real world. I plan to encourage and bridge not only the students in my classroom but strive to work outside my art room, both school and community wide.

When it comes to classroom environment. I want students to feel welcomed in my classroom, providing a space of support, security and fun. However, I do want to make sure my students are understanding that there are expectations and a system of order in my classroom. I plan on establishing a clean up system early on, providing them the routine and knowledge of how to get materials, where to get them, put them away and treat their tools. Along these lines how you set up your classroom is something to take thought in. I think it is important to remember to take consideration in making the space accessible. My classroom will be ready to welcome all types of learners. When talking about the learning space, something that I find important is displaying work. I want students to take pride in their work, and give them inspiration to look at around the room. It not only makes them feel proud in themselves but it shows them you are proud and value the work they are producing. My main hope for teaching is I can provide a person and space for students to feel valued and cared about. I want them to discover new parts of themselves as well as continue to develop on who they already are. Together we can all achieve trust, respect, kindness and growth.