

As an educator, I aim to prepare students for a creative and productive life as global citizens. To achieve this, I provide a hands-on, student-centered learning environment that encourages intellectual inquiry and self-discovery, built on strong technical, social, academic, and artistic skills. It is essential to recognize the diversity in our community and tap into our various strengths to foster a safe and respectful environment that encourages collaboration among all stakeholders.

Reading and writing about art is just as important as creating it. My philosophy encourages students to develop lifelong artistic and problem-solving skills through intellectual inquiry and self-discovery. By participating in and outside the classroom, students can express their ideas, learn from each other, and grow together as creative, productive citizens.

Students have a right to a thoughtful and progressive education that considers the whole individual. All students have a talent, and I seek to help them realize their potential by encouraging them to self-reflect while developing academic and technical skills. Differentiation and peer-to-peer learning are natural components of a well-rounded arts education experience. Maximizing student achievement means engaging our community inside and outside the classroom to explore and share experiences. Communication tools are essential in helping students reflect on the past while examining the world's present social, economic, political, and multicultural landscape. By demonstrating positive communication skills and open, constructive, and collaborative criticism, students develop language skills and build confidence, which leads to individual and group success.

As a former military member, I understand the importance of cooperation, having each other's backs, and fostering "esprit de corps." These values are essential in the classroom, where I encourage students to work towards a shared goal, help, and celebrate each other's successes.

My role as a photography teacher is to guide my students in discovering their path of artistic creation. Students can make a difference in their backyard, whether in Jerusalem or Jacksonville. It is essential to show students that they do not need to travel to far-flung, war-torn lands to make a difference with their photography.

Teaching is a natural extension of my photographic practice. I am only as good as my last picture and must be a living example of what I teach. Renewing myself through teaching renews my artistic vision and helps me grow as a photographer. My career's struggles and successes inform my teaching approach, and I genuinely enjoy helping my students succeed.

Finally, art has the power to transform the way we see the world. By breaking down the boundaries between the self and the world, we can open ourselves up to new experiences and ways of being. As an educator, I want to create opportunities for my students to engage with the world in new and exciting ways and to use their art as a means of self-discovery and personal transformation.