

Emerging Teaching Philosophy- Metaphorical Reflections and Key Points

Shooting Stars- Artist Statement

Reflecting back on my past experiences throughout Early Field in my classroom at Kutztown or my cooperative teacher's classroom at Hereford, I have had many crystalizing experiences. Although my teaching philosophy is incredibly underdeveloped, to be honest, I'm not quite sure I know what it is yet. But after being prompted to think about it, by recounting some of my journal entries, blog comments, and verbal discourses, I noticed some recurring elements that I do think will be key in my teaching philosophy. Throughout my brief video, Shooting Stars, I metaphorically, use space itself to speak directly to my emerging idea that interdisciplinary connections are important. With passions for other fields such as the sciences and health, interdisciplinaries are the world, and "art," after all, "is just another way of viewing the world (Lois Hetland and Ellen Winner)." So in my classroom, we will use art; we will stretch art; and we will view the world. Furthermore, in Shooting Stars, I continue to use this metaphor that every person *is* an individual. Every individual *is* special. My classroom will be a nebula, and in my nebula, every student is a growing star. It is my job to acknowledge that, I will evoke their best, and I will help them to shine. Though there will be many students, I will look at each student, each star, with love and admiration, and they will always leave me feeling surprised and impressed. My classroom will not only be full of stars, but of constellations. There will be talking and sharing and communicating. That is important to me, not only on a collaborative academic level, but also on a personal level. I will know my students names. I will know who they are, what they like- what makes them shine. They will know each other; and they will know me. This sense of togetherness and community that a cluster of stars has, that constellation has, will enable us to explore and to play. Our rocket ship will soar and we will be adventurous and investigative, "because the way to get the most out of life is to look upon it as an adventure (Irving Wallace)." "By replacing the fear of the unknown with curiosity, we can open ourselves up to an infinite stream of possibilities (Anonymous)." We can go on that adventure. We will hit some asteroids along the way. But navigating that asteroid belt is just another opportunity to become better pilots. I will become a better pilot. But the discoveries that each of us learn on our journeys will shine through in our creative endeavors. But, like space, we will continue to question the unknown "because somewhere something incredible is waiting to be known (Carl Sagan)." I will encourage my students, my artists, my explorers to continue to question and investigate. By teaching them new content and new tools, and by taking a sincere, humanistic interest in them, their lights will grow, and they will shine.