

Ryley Perry's Teaching Philosophy

In my opinion, every dancer must have three qualities: discipline, passion, and freedom. With these three qualities, dancers have the ability to take their dreams however far they see. As a teacher, I attend to implement these concepts into my classroom. I also believe that all the best teachers are still students. It is important to know what new styles are entering the dance world to offer the best insight to the students. While it is important to know history and classical technique, dance should always be moving forward and a good teacher knows what is happening in the dance community. The three qualities I plan to implement are maintained by going to class and keeping myself informed on the best ways to give my students these tools.

Discipline can oftentimes have a negative connotation. My classroom will be encouraging, uplifting, and dedicated. The dancers will always be told to cheer each other on if we are doing exercises in groups or showing a combination we are working on. This will allow dancers to want to push through a difficult exercise or a demanding piece of choreography to prove to themselves that they are able to achieve challenging tasks. I will not tolerate any sort of negative talk amongst the dancers, therefore, each student will know that there is a team of people rooting for them to succeed. I hope to use the word discipline as a motivator for each student to perform to their best ability.

The word passion in my classroom will be used to express our love for dance. I understand that not every student dreams of being a professional dancer, yet something inspired them to take a dance class so I want that joy to stay present in my classroom. Love, joy and

passion are all grouped in one area in my class, therefore every dancer should feel a driving force to keep pushing forward no matter what career path you take. I am a firm believer in keeping dance as a art form rather than a workout class. Yes, I believe dance can benefit our physical health, but I have confidence that dance is just as beneficial for our mental health. I plan to foster that environment in my classroom.

Freedom is a loose term that artists will use in an educational setting and I acknowledge that. The word freedom in my classroom will be used as a way to let the students have the right to choose what they want to do with their bodies. No student will be forced to perform a certain way or do something they are uncomfortable with. I also believe in collaboration especially in an educational environment. As a teacher, I should be learning from my students just as much as they learn from me. Artistically, dancers in my classroom should feel safe to explore with movement, have a voice, and be able to be heard.

My teaching philosophy reflects my morals in an educational environment. I hope that every student takes these key terms and applies them to any aspect of their lives. As I previously stated, I will always be a student in the way that I continue to take classes and keep up with the newest styles and standards. I believe that every teacher should never stop learning. Therefore, I always will bring new ideas and concepts into the classroom while keeping my three key concepts prevalent. My classroom will be disciplined, passionate, and artistically free to make their own choices.