

Chantrell M. Lewis
Teaching Philosophy

As a teacher, I work to perpetuate knowledge and inspire self-confidence and a sense of belonging. As a theatre educator, I introduce students to a world of theatrical and performance works and ask them to engage in the language, worlds, and characters of those stories. Not only that but through theatre, I am able to introduce students to history and ask them to take deep dives into the lives and realities of people from all walks of life. I ask students to articulate their feelings, reactions, and understanding not only through participation on stage but also through listening, reading, and watching. I work to balance my courses between lecturing to students and giving them individual opportunities to explore and make their own discoveries. I encourage students to engage with the current topic, to listen, and to share their responses with me and their peers. In this approach, we are able to learn from each other, which I believe helps to create the best learning outcomes. It gives students support, a sense of responsibility, and belonging in their education. I take an approach to student evaluation, that reflects my goals of perpetuated learning and a continued build in self-confidence. My students are expected to explore and master the topics we cover. Second, students are given the opportunity to perform, reflect on and evaluate their experience throughout the course. I set high standards for my students because I know they are capable, and I am also aware that every student has different needs. I work to accommodate those needs in an attempt to provide equitable learning environments. Everyone has different life experiences and in order to share a space together all of those experiences need a place to exist, without adjustment. Every student can succeed, as long as they show up and have a teacher who is willing to listen to them. I believe the best curriculum is always fully supported by the competencies of Social and Emotional Learning. As an SEL certified educator I believe the essentials to well - rounded learning are centered by practices of self - regulation, social

awareness, relationship skills, and good decision making. These align themselves with each and every discipline within the performing arts and so, I approach each of my classrooms with the intention of healthy student-teacher relationships and SEL based curriculum...I believe my job as an educator is to serve as a conduit for exploration and discovery with safety and boundless freedom.