

Philosophy of Teaching

People have historically been known to dance since the beginning of time. Dance is as natural to human nature as is the beating of one's heart. As a dancer, teacher, choreographer, and educator it is my objective to captivate students in the beauty of dance. Dance is used to communicate and connect with each other when words do not suffice.

I provide students with an aesthetic knowledge of dance, enable students to participate in the creation, performance, and to express the elements and principals of dance. Dance assists to develop students' critical thinking skills through critique. I strive to make dance tangible and make dance history relatable to today's world. I seek to make the aesthetic of dance accessible to my students, and to encourage them to think outside the box through exploration of the world beyond their immediate community.

It is my profound belief that classic Modern techniques such as Graham, Cunningham, Horton & Limon are essential in today's contemporary world. Students of today are at a disadvantage due to the commercialism of dance through television and social media. Dance has become a competitive sport of tricks which can severely cut the longevity of a dancer's career. It is my belief if one wants to have a professional career in dance, one must have a solid foundation in Modern. This focus on technique, moving from the core and using the body efficiently and effectively strengthens the dancer and can provide the groundwork for a long and healthy career.

I have found tangible rewards since my tenure within Newark Public Schools and Center for Modern Dance Education. Two of my former students were accepted to Arts High School's Dance Department and are the top students within their classes. Quite a few of my students have been accepted to prestigious schools/programs such as, NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Emerson University, Boston Conservatory, Ailey/Fordham, Virginia Commonwealth University, SUNY Purchase, The Martha Graham School, and The Alvin Ailey School. I have seen my students grow into technical masters of ballet and modern dance. My students' drive to continue dance has truly confirmed my hard work has reaped countless benefits for them as well as myself.