

MORGAN WHITE

Philosophy of Teaching Statement

As a young teacher with a heart for serving others, I view teaching through the lens of helping students improve their overall beings by giving them time, knowledge, and encouragement. As a goal, I always want my students to leave my class better than when they walked in. Whether it be technically, mentally, or a combination of the two, my aim is to give my students the resources that they need to continue to grow as human beings and dancers. I strive to create an environment that encourages confidence within the students regardless of whether they are training intensely or recreationally. I firmly believe that what happens inside the classroom has the power to change lives for the better.

My teaching enacts my beliefs and goals because in each individual class I teach, I take great care to plan a learning experience that is appropriate for each level and age group. Especially as children are developing, I find it vital to form the structure of the class around the students' cognitive and physical capabilities in order to construct the most effective learning environment. Likewise, I am fully invested in each student that I teach, so I understand and take note of their personal struggles and successes in class. As a result, I incorporate tools, such as creative imagery and positive affirmation to encourage my students to persist and work their hardest to improve throughout each class.

In my class, I expect my students to come in and give their best effort throughout the entirety of the class, and they should anticipate the same from me. I never want my students to focus on perfection; I want to set them up for success by helping them gain confidence and embrace individuality within their movement. More than learning skills and steps, I want my students to understand that they can come in to dance class and be confident in who they are; dance is a form of expression after all! Whether or not they choose to pursue dance throughout their lives, my wish is for my students to walk away from my class having gained an appreciation and respect for hard work, persistence, and the art of dance.