

Claudia Garcia

Teaching Philosophy

I believe music education should supplement social emotional development in children, and my goal as a teacher is for music to be a way for children to discover, celebrate, and nurture their personal power. Given the racist and anti-feminist history and tendencies in music education in the United States, I am intentional in my selection of works for the curriculum I design to ensure representation of the students I am teaching in addition to uplifting BBIA voices. When my students smile, participate, ask questions, share personal connections to content, and are motivated to continue their music education outside the classroom, I know that my lessons are fun and engaging.

During [synchronous] music class, my students know they are in a safe space with a teacher who wants to know how they're feeling before asking if they practiced, and "bandmates" who cheer them on, stand up for them, and are there when they need support. They know I value education above their progress in my class, but they also know they learn a lot about history, culture, geography, languages, math, and other arts disciplines in my class. My music students know that they will receive some sort of compliment for their participation, and they know they can talk to me about anything.

Especially during these times I believe it's important to be flexible, open minded, and excited about the different strategies that can be implemented through online learning. This year I have attended several workshops and am always excited for an opportunity to become a better teacher. I aim to always be open to suggestions and feedback from colleagues, parents, administrators, and students, as well as to collaborations. I am also committed to self-care because it not only helps me, but I can also model this for my students.

Resources

Books I recommend:

- Nurtured by Love: The Classic Approach to Talent Education Paperback – Illustrated, June 1, 1993 by Shinichi Suzuki
- Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom by Bell Hooks
- Mindfulness for Teachers: Simple Skills for Peace and Productivity in the Classroom (The Norton Series on the Social Neuroscience of Education) by Patricia A. Jennings

Online:

- Decolonizing the Music Room FB group
- [PS ARTS](#) model + resources