

October 7 2016

*Question 1: How long have you been teaching?*

Answer 1: Fifteen years

*Question 2: What do you teach?*

Answer 2: Dance, leadership, religion, and drama

*Question 3: What made you want to be a teacher?*

I always had a passion for facilitating activities and leadership opportunities. I started creating dances in grade 7 and ever since then I knew it was something that I wanted to do as a career. I like organizing and coaching people so I always knew that teaching was something that I was going to do. For a while I debated opening my own dance studio, but teacher's college was never out of the question.

*Question 4: Have you adapted your approach to teaching over the years?*

Yes. The main thing is that I teach the person more now than the curriculum. I focus on teachable moments and making connections. I'd rather have connections with the students than finish everything in the curriculum. I'm an over-perfectionist so I have to remember that I want to be the best, but the best for the world not for yourself. Meeting the student's expectations is important.

*Question 5: How do you deal with different learning types?*

The students that are coming up are much different in regards to the way they learn based on society, technology maybe, and home environments. I do a lot of meditation, affirmations, show compassion, and promote wellness because students need personal care more. Students also don't know how to work really hard and study which is a hard skill to teach. Social media and technology tends to shut people down and create anxiety which is typically why people fail. I try to prevent this shutting down by promoting personal well being.

*Question 6: How would you respond to a student who was acting detached from the classroom setting?*

Being as engaging as I can. I start small by just saying hello and asking them a question about themselves both before and after class. I also set up an environment in the classroom that makes it hard for them to detach where everyone is in a circle and on the same level. I force students to talk and form groups and have them make sure that no one is left out. Its important to just keep talking and have them keep talking.

*Question 7: How about a student who wasn't going to class or finishing their homework?*

I would call them out but not in a confrontational way. Just questioning them by putting it back on them saying, "Hey, did you notice that you never finish your work on time? Why is that?". Its a matter of making them accountable for their lack of work but also making sure that I ask "What can I do to help?" and not letting them quit. We set mini goals and have conversations to help them see the bigger picture that even things you don't want to do still have to be done. I had a lot of students last year who would not do their work and it was very stressful for me. Getting your own self care and talking positive are important things that helped me make sure that I didn't get too down during this time.

*Question 8: What are your thoughts on the value of arts in education and why is math and science more in demand than the arts?*

every student should do that arts every day. The skills that the arts teach are under appreciated. Skills like teamwork, creativity, hard work ethic, engaging with others. We learn life skills through the arts that we don't learn through math and science. I'm not sure why math and science are valued more. Is it an elitist thing? Is it because math and science can be right and wrong? Is it because they give us inventions and created the things we have in the world today? I don't know.

*Question 9: Have you ever questioned your profession?*

No. I have reflected on going more into leadership and administration opportunities but never wanted to leave teaching.

*Question 10: Would you ever go back to school?*

I've taken eight courses over my fifteen years of teaching so I try to keep learning as much as I can. I don't know everything and I will never claim to know anything. But I have a lot of experiences that students do not have. Learning is an ongoing process that never stops, I'm constantly reading and writing too. My family is a priority right now so I wouldn't be able to do anything too intense in the way of school.

*Question 11: What is the most essential thing in the classroom dynamics?*

Building a sense of community and a respectful environment so that people feel safe to share and be creative. I constantly feed the growth.

*Question 12: So do you think that a classroom setting is more student or teacher driven?*

Student driven. You always start from where they are and go from there. You are their guide and facilitator but you all grow and explore creatively together, especially in dance.

*Question 12: What is your goal that you hope to accomplish by the end of the school year?*

My goal is to build self esteem and self confidence. I want to build the students up more to make sure that they feel good. I need them to realize that they are good. We do affirmations every day and I have a quote book that I chose and read a quote out of every class.

*Question 13: What is teaching to you?*

Teaching is my vocation. Its almost as if I was called to do it because I was aware of it at such an earl age. It feels natural like a part of me. I'm constantly teaching my children and everyone around me. I've never felt that teaching is something I didn't want to do. Constantly loving and caring for people. Helping students to be the best versions of themselves and doing this through teaching.