

Art Biography

Thinking back on my first experiences in the arts, I believe it started when I got a giant tub of Legos from my aunt. She kept a whole collection from my cousins and gave it to me for one of my early birthdays. I remember spending hours upon hours creating incredible creations that I proudly displayed on my dresser for months until my mom dismantled them. I was so frustrated when she did that but I see she did that so I could create something new and allow me to grow. Going into middle school, I didn't have any interesting pursuing music after my experience at the end of elementary. I felt embarrassed almost every time I had to perform, especially on recorder. When it came to middle school and I had to choose an instrument for either band or orchestra, I chose the trumpet because it didn't resemble anything like the recorder and I thought it would be easy to play. I tell my students at the beginning of the year this story and how horrible I sounded, but I gave the trumpet a second chance and ended up loving my experience in band mainly because of my band director. In high school, I was very involved in band, taking trumpet lessons from my band director, performing with a youth symphony outside of school, auditioning for All-State Band, and mentoring a group of Freshmen musicians. During my first year teaching elementary music, I... Some of my colleagues suggested I take a look at the Orff process of teaching music. To give a brief summary of the process, the Orff approach engages the child's mind and body of singing, saying, moving, and playing

instruments to teach musical concepts. The key characteristics for this approach are that lessons are presented with an element of play, which helps the children learn at their own level of understanding and creativity. For the last four years I have been training in the art of Orff and I have seen how using this process has sparked the imagination in my own students.

I think the general characteristics of the art experiences that have been meaningful to me are those which I had to face some kind of adversity or challenge. I don't know if I can say it's been an easy road to get me where I am at today, but all my life I've worked from the bottom-up to reach my goals. From my mother disassembling my Legos to finding new ways to engage my students, I have learned so much about myself and to share that initiative to my students. I don't know if I would say I've been successful because success hasn't been my goal. One of my favorite TV show quotes comes from Coach Taylor from *Friday Night Lights* when he tells one of his players, "Success is not a goal, but a byproduct." That quote got me thinking about then what is the goal? I think the best answer to that question is whatever you make it to be. My goal for me is that there is some kind of learning happen, then we can live, "clear eyes, full hearts, can't lose" (Another quote from FNL). I've made plenty of mistakes and I know there are plenty more I'll make, but as long as I learn from them then I will always meet my goal. Even when I've been discouraged in my pursuit of learning,

I've found that I am capable of doing amazing things if I believe in myself and continue to find new ways to achieve my goals.

So, what are the Arts? It is the expression or application of human creative skill, imagination, and subjects of study primarily concerned with the processes and products of human creativity and social life. Within the Arts, there are six subjects it branches from, which are music (the art of listening and sound), art (the art of visuals), dance (the art of movement), drama (the art of emotions), media (art of technology) and poetry/literature (the art of language). What do the arts do? They give the imagination endless possibilities to interact with our world. They help us take a concept, deconstruct it, reconstruct it while adding some part of ourselves, and then share it to create authentic experiences for the lives of the people around us.