

TIM PATTERSON

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PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT:

As an educator I strive to create safe, thoughtful, and structured classrooms where students are constantly encouraged and lessons are differentiated while still maintaining authenticity. Students in my classroom are not only engaged in project-based learning, but they look forward to school. My students work cooperatively, advocate for one another, and aren't afraid of making mistakes. By teaching the importance of critical thinking, social responsibility, respect, and hard work, I aim to inspire a safe and positive learning community where students, teachers, and families work together and learn from one another. Everything I am, everything I stand for, and everything I fight for stems from my upbringing, my faith, my wife, my friends, and the amazing individuals I've had the pleasure working with.

I have spent the majority of my teaching career specializing in Language Arts, Reading Workshop, Guided Reading, and Writer's Workshop. Teaching students to see themselves as creative, thoughtful, and professional readers and writers is at the core of my ELA curriculum. It's my passion to take the "I hate writing" or "I'm not a good reader" out of the conversation and show both students and teachers that they are amazing authors, critical thinkers, and life-long learners.

In the elementary and middle grades students should be exposed to a multitude of authentic learning opportunities. Students in my classes write stories, script out and record podcasts, read and discuss literature, research and construct feature articles, create portfolios of poetry and song lyrics, collect data, set goals, write persuasive letters to local representatives, and engineer solutions to local problems.

In addition to academics, I also teach students and other teachers a variety of life skills such as organization, professionalism, cooperation, time management, conflict-resolution, and self-reflection. My classes participate in Socratic circles around current events, hold fun, but thoughtful morning meetings, conduct literature circles, and are contributing members in the school community. The number one thing that I've learned as a teacher is that students need to see that you are a passionate learner, role model, mentor, coach, and someone others can lean on. Modeling lessons, making mistakes, and sharing your work with your students humanizes your role in the classroom. Students need to see the real you and feel safe in your presence. When you are able to build those relationships and create a thoughtful, creative, and safe classroom environment is when you will experience growth and success.

EXPERIENCE STATEMENT:

Over the course of my teaching career I've worked at four different schools in four different states. I've held a variety of positions, taken on many leadership responsibilities, and taught multiple subjects at 6 different grade levels.

During my first year of teaching experience at Falk Laboratory School in Pittsburgh, I was also pursuing my Masters Degree at the University of Pittsburgh. Throughout the year, I developed positive, working relationships with the university, it's professors, and the

faculty at Falk Laboratory School. This provided me with daily opportunities to not only study, but also implement the latest, research-based teaching strategies.

After earning my Masters of Arts in Teaching Degree, I moved to Washington D.C., where I taught at Murch Elementary for four years. While beginning my classroom career as a language arts and social studies teacher, I also began balancing many other positions. I was a lead teacher, writer's workshop mentor, mentor teacher, art club teacher, member of the Responsive Classroom team, and champion cross-country coach. During my last two years, I had the privilege of collaborating with other local enrichment coaches in implementing our district's *Junior Great Books* enrichment program. I also attended multiple trainings in *Writing Fundamentals* and *Writer's Workshop*, which I continued to further develop in Texas.

In June of 2014, my wife and I moved to Austin, Texas and I began a four year, leadership journey at Austin Discovery School (Charter School). Here I taught, co-taught, and followed students through six different grade levels. I turned my classroom and our outdoor spaces into art galleries, wax museums, recording studios, graveyards, and movie sets. We put on outdoor performances, designed and built school signage, published our own fiction stories, and even went on weekly guided hikes. I was an active, contributing member in the school and Austin community.

While teaching at A.D.S., I became both confident in my management style and well-planned in my day-to-day responsibilities. Therefore, I decided to use my extra time to share my experiences, resources, and knowledge with anyone who wanted additional training and guidance. Eventually this evolved into holding professional developments on topics such as *Writer's Workshop* and *The Writer's Notebook*. I spent time mentoring other teachers and holding after-school training days on classroom management, responsive classroom, and restorative justice.

During my time at A.D.S., we opened a Middle School, adding one grade at a time. A fellow colleague and I took on the roles of Co-Directors of Middle School while also teaching 3 grade levels. We created vision and mission statements, designed daily schedules, coordinated events, and worked hand-in-hand with our school board. In just four years working at A.D.S., I built friendly, honest, and professional relationships with school families, board members, and our administration that I still hold today.

Currently I am teaching 5th and 6th grade ELA at Tybee Island Maritime Academy (Charter School), here in Savannah. Over the last few years, I've become an expert at utilizing Zoom, Google Classroom, and other web-based applications to make both virtual and in-person learning successful, engaging, and fun. We are utilizing other types of technology as we implement STEAM driven, project-based units in all subjects, differentiating and scaffolding as needed. Although we have a diverse group of learners, we are carefully targeting and adjusting our instruction so that each learner shows growth, feels accomplished, and is given what they need to be successful.

In addition to all of the responsibilities of being a highly effective teacher, I am continually reading up on the latest education trends and research-based teaching strategies. Personally, I love test-driving the latest classroom tech and trying out new or simply innovative teaching strategies. Being flexible and open-minded is just as important as being strategic and well-planned.