



02 Arts Teacher in My Eyes

Preface

During a discussion on time management with secondary grade three students, I had once heard the class teacher said: "Arts cannot help you to pass and to graduate." This class teacher did tell the facts, because Arts is a selective subject for examination-need education. But as for the aim of education, it requires equal importance on conduct, wisdom, intelligence, physical exercises, groups, beauty and quick sensitive. From this aim of education, arts education can help to achieve a complete ideal education. Arts Teacher can help students to develop individual character as a whole. With her working experiences and what she had seen from diligent teacher of the same subject course, the writer tells us "The Arts Teacher in My Eyes." Let us talk about the works of Arts Teacher together. (In Macau, the core courses include Visual Arts, Fine Arts and Craft Arts. In the following paragraphs, we address the course and the course teacher as Arts and Arts Teacher respectively).

Teacher's Characteristic

The Arts Teacher's expressions on people's personality and professional ability have crucial effect on his teaching. He loves arts, goes through hard training on arts; learns different ways of expressions on arts; keeps on chiseling and clipping; seeks for excellence and self-perfections.

Professional Background

Core course does not talk about stratagems only on paper. It also requires corresponding professional teaching ability, like a dancing teacher who has a graceful figure, specializes in dancing and knows well the rhythm of music; he/she also needs to design dancing postures suitable for his/her students. After finishing core courses in school, the teacher is attained with professional and educational arts abilities. He/she knows arts history; has the experience of arts creation; learns education theory and understands the development of arts education; is familiar with children's specific modeling in different stages. Through his/her implementation on arts teaching, he/she is able to design teaching plans and activities suitable for children.

Effective Teaching

Teacher's professional and self-determination character is the decisive and productive factors of knowledge and new information. Arts activities are creative and open. In a school, the arts teacher has the strongest ability to accept new things amongst all the teachers. He has creative spirit and standard views on education principle to make a balance between rules and creations.

In the era of new information, following the development of technology, Arts Teacher has a good grasp of different kinds of cultural information. Their knowledge leads students to know fine arts, all kinds of visual objects and even common culture. From the surrounding environments to unlimited imagination, knowing history of arts, cultural buildings, natural observation, sentimental expression, creation and inventions....etc, Arts teacher leads students to develop the "visual" imagination ability and observation ability on beauty.

Arts Teacher values contact with people, things and goods. Beside using those uninteresting teaching materials, he does his utmost effort to bring the students "in" and "out" from school to take part in all around learning activities; he walks around the societies with his students; purposely arouses students to care about their society; leads them to discover the "beauty" and "in-depth culture" from their living things; brings them for outdoor drawing; together they view and admire cultural relic, genuine goods in the museum. He fully utilizes his personal network to invite artists to hold workshops in school and develops plans of school stationed artists, thus bringing in some new arts ideas. He can plan the course resources as a whole; complement the school resources and

teacher's specialization to find out and select different kinds of arts resources appropriately; use effectively of human resources and things in the society to develop school courses.

Arts Teacher shows solicitude for individual student's various characters and performance abilities; accepts both "feel upon visual" and "sense upon touch" students; adjusts the teaching strategic and designs multiple activities to satisfy the needs of learning development. He cares about the ideal modeling image of students, and encourages students to initiate observation and to think independently; allows spaces for them to fully express their new ideas. He observes and experiences characteristic of media instruments with his students. When it is appropriate, he supports and leads the students to solve problems by themselves. He even stays at school after school hours to support their creativity activities.

An Arts Teacher's teaching is not an isolated sector. The teacher's association and other colleagues design go beyond teaching courses plans, thus fully express the cooperation and teaching culture among teachers. They inspire student's multiple intelligence and take care of student's different learning needs together. Through the abstract or heavenly steed soaring across skies expressions of students' works, teachers can look out student's individual living, studies, career development and sentimental problems. When there is information brought out from student's arts works, Arts Teacher is able to cooperate with other colleagues to reflect questions and to consult with students, affecting the spirit of student to reach the goal of successfully cultivating student's body and mind healthily.

The teacher's rich arts teaching theory makes arts learning creative, visual, presentable and technical. By using arts language, students can express their sensing and thinking abilities. It allows them to transmit individual idea and value which are more attractive than learning from words.

Arts Teacher has his own ideal of arts education. He is a practitioner who reflects his past to implement a better way in the future. He is humble, eager to learn and has a life learning idea while updating new course of education theory from time to time. He has the "Can See" ability- he can see the needs of society, the needs of students and existing education thinking; then develop courses according to these factors; he has the "Can Do" ability- he can teach students with the arts education ideals embedded in his heart.

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Arrange Class

A class is a small society. Due to the characteristics of arts course, there is quiet a differences in managing an arts class from others. Arts Teacher can however use his professional accomplishment to manage his class properly. He has knowledge on planning a room for fundamental arts teaching. He considers the complement between physical environment and social culture. He sets arts room inside the school according to the seats size and the density of the space area in order to achieve learning and teaching efficiency.

Teaching arts is cultivation for aesthetics, development of creation, leading of performing ability, and use of and mastering media instruments. Arts Teacher knows safety marks and has profound knowledge on safety of using different intermediary material and painting substances and prohibits children for being touch with it; he can thus recognize harmful substance. When air is not circulating well in classroom, children's health is always his first priority, but never his work performance, he does not use easily volatized substance; he keeps safety rules of arts room. He manages the arts room; keeps students' arts works well and displays all kinds of tools and media instruments properly. He disposes painting materials, never plays fancy ways of performance and carefully budgeting in the use of consumer goods.

Arts education is not purely an individual affair. It is extensive, exploratory, of low pressure, of relaxing learning atmosphere and easily enhances close relationship between teacher and student. Arts Teacher leads student together to perform positive interactive activities, provides them safe and freedom and making students to enjoy their individual performance chances, in the meantime leads them to accept feedback and feeling of others on their work of arts.

Arts Teacher has practical experience on arts creation which enables him to understand students and to treasure their arts work. He does not put more effort on those outstanding students. He believes that all students have equal learning opportunities. In his eyes every student is an artist in his living; his arts works are all original and valuable. At the same time, Arts Teacher is also the strategic developer; he respects works of his student. He and his students prepare together an exhibition of "Unique" and affecting students gradually to enhance the cohesion of school. He is able to seize the opportunity to show the importance of arts in school anniversary celebration. In this exhibition, he plays an important role as a "Bridge" explaining arts works of his students to parents and visitors, leading them to "See" the concrete development of students.

Schools do not only provide general knowledge. Since there is no standard answer for arts, Arts Teacher can provide intellectual education in addition. His roles as a teacher and a friend thus enable every student to create sentimental thinking. He is willing to stay after school hours, working hard quietly to cultivate student's full development. This is the image of "Arts Teacher in My Eyes," in Macau.

Supplement

About more than twenty years ago, when some people knew that I was an Arts Teacher, they said in surprise: "Oh, you teach arts? You must be great in drawing!" I said, "Yes, I do draw." At that time, I learnt drawing very hard. Then more than ten years ago, someone asked me again: "Are you an arts teacher? Do you play craft arts, do you hold any exhibition?" Then someone would act as making some porcelain as the actress did in the movie "GHOST." I said: "Yes, I know some arts; I am not an artist though I do not create my own arts style; I develop together with my students and I follow their arts style, because I am only an arts teacher." Since I do not create my own arts style, but I address myself as a "Teacher" instead, people always look at me suspiciously. Recently someone asked me again: "What is your target area, arts cultivation or arts education?" This is a right question; this implies that training of teacher has a good foundation in Macau.

There is not doubt, arts teacher greatly loves arts. As an arts teacher possessing arts professional in the same time, I believe that education is more important. The difference between arts lover and arts teacher is that arts lover's path will be driven by his arts works; does whatever he wants to express his sentimental feeling and thinking; responsible to him and the society only. Whilst Arts Teacher is not dominant by individual determination; he is responsible to education rules and regulations; he seeks for student's full development as his self-responsibilities.

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