THE ENVIRONMENT IS THE THIRD TEACHER

The SEED School of Miami
Jennifer Joy Pike-Vassell
Prof. of Visual Arts & Culture
CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF SEED MIAMI.
WHO IS TEACHING THE COURSE??

• BA: DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY, PITTSBURGH, PA
  MAJOR IN ENGLISH LITERATURE
  DOUBLE MINORS IN PSYCHOLOGY & PHILOSOPHY

• TEACHING CERTIFICATE: BROOKLYN COLLEGE, BROOKLYN, NY

• MA: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, NY
  MAJOR IN CURRICULUM & TEACHING
PART OF TEACHING IS
HELPING PEOPLE
CREATE THEMSELVES

MAXINE GREENE
PICTUREQUOTES.COM
Maxine Greene relentlessly explored ways that literature and the arts could open us to what might seem “to be a totally alien world in the person of another; we are called upon to use our imaginations to enter into that world, to discover how it looks and feels from the vantage point of the person whose world it is. That does not mean that we approve it or even necessarily appreciate it. It does mean that we extend our experience sufficiently to grasp it as a . . . possibility.”

(Releasing the Imagination: Essays on Education, the Arts, and Social Change, p. 4.)
"I'm absolutely opposed to strict standards, and I'm terribly interested in kids having confidence in their own vision. There is no right way to make art."

"I use the term ‘wide-awakeness’. Without the ability to think about yourself, to reflect on your life, there's really no awareness, no consciousness. Consciousness doesn't come automatically; it comes through being alive, awake, curious, and often furious."

"I'm very influenced by existentialism and the thought that you can be submerged in the crowd, and if you're submerged in the crowd and have no opportunity to think for yourself, to look through your own eyes, life is dull and flat and boring. The only way to really awaken to life, awaken to the possibilities, is to be self-aware."
What are some positive aspects of your classroom (and school) community & culture?

What are some of the challenges?

What role does the physical environment play in your teaching and learning space?
Do you feel empowered and/or have the support as an educator in your learning community to have a voice?

"Engaging teachers in the conversation about what great teaching looks like can be transformative."

Julia Armstrong, Coordinator, Kellett School
WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE, IF ANY, BETWEEN MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP?

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE STATEMENT “LEADERSHIP IS A RELATIONSHIP”?

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION?
Equality

The assumption is that everyone benefits from the same supports. This is equal treatment.

Equity

Everyone gets the supports they need (this is the concept of “affirmative action”), thus producing equity.

Justice

All 3 can see the game without supports or accommodations because the cause(s) of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.
Brené Brown

Brené Brown, PhD, LMSW is a research professor at the University of Houston’s Graduate College of Social Work who has spent the past 10 years studying vulnerability, courage, authenticity, and shame. She is a nationally renowned speaker and has won numerous teaching awards, including the college’s Outstanding Faculty Award. Her groundbreaking work has been featured on PBS, NPR, and CNN. Her 2010 TEDxHouston talk on the power of vulnerability is one of most watched talks on TED.com. Her most recent TED talk, “Listening to Shame,” was released in March 2012.
“...BUT DARING LEADERSHIP IN A CULTURE DEFINED BY SCARCITY, FEAR, AND UNCERTAINTY REQUIRES SKILL-BUILDING AROUND TRAITS THAT ARE DEEPLY AND UNIQUELY HUMAN. THE IRONY IS THAT WE’RE CHOOSING NOT TO INVEST IN DEVELOPING THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF LEADERS AT THE SAME TIME AS WE’RE SCRAMBLING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER THAT MACHINES AND AI CAN’T DO BETTER AND FASTER. WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER? EMPATHY, CONNECTION, AND COURAGE, TO START....”

-FROM THE BOOK JACKET OF DARE TO LEAD: BRAVE WORK, TOUGH CONVERSATIONS. WHOLE HEARTS.

Brene Brown
In many ways, effective communication begins with mutual respect, communication that inspires, encourages others to do their best.

• Zig Ziglar
Am I truly listening?

Please take responsibility for the energy you bring into this space.

-Dr. Jill Bolte Taylor
THERE'S NOT ONLY ONE RIGHT WAY
Don't Forget

to Breathe

I do not go to the forest to be alone. She said, I go to be with the ones who speak without human words.
#1 CAUSE OF DEATH FOR CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES IS GUNS

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL & PREVENTION
“I never have been in despair about the world. Enraged. I’ve been enraged by the world, but never despair. I cannot afford despair...you can’t tell the children that there is no hope.”

—James Baldwin

BLACK LITURGIES
An environment that is not safe to disagree in is not an environment focused on growth - it's an environment focused on control.
Reflective Questions for Educators, Students, & All Community Members

Is this classroom a space where I can be myself?

Does my voice genuinely matter in this space? How do I know?

How can I advocate for myself in others in situations where I do not feel fully safe to respectfully express my thoughts and ideas?
PEACE STARTS WITHIN ME.

If you slice me open to my center you won't discover rings of regret or circles of sorrow

I hope instead you will see growth in grace and wonder moving like waves from my core

Jen Brady
INHALE
I grow weary,

EXHALE
But not numb.

INHALE
The whole earth groans.

EXHALE
Art is resistance.

INHALE
I steady my breath.

EXHALE
I make beauty of chaos.

INHALE
I don’t have to move on.

EXHALE
I steady my eyes.
THE ZEN CHILL SPOT
A Place to Reflect and Find Calm
THE 4CS OF VISUAL ARTS

CRAFTSMANSHIP
The quality of design & work shown in something made by hand; artistry.

COMPOSITION
A complete work of art, and more specifically the way in which all its elements work together to produce an overall effect.

COMMUNICATION
The imparting or exchanging of information
- Voice
- In your creative work
- In your personal responsibility, accountability & leadership
- Respectful & open-minded
- Open to challenging dialogue

CREATIVITY
The use of the imagination to inspire and inform others
What is the "third teacher" in teaching & learning?

"A student’s classroom environment serves as more than just a backdrop to their learning. Many modern theorists, inspired by the Reggio Emilia approach, consider the environment to act as a “third teacher” to the learner. The “first teacher” includes the adults that contribute to their child’s learning. The “second teacher” includes the child’s peers. The “third teacher” includes the space in which one learns. With this approach in mind, it is important to put careful thought into the intentional design of a student learning space...."
"A classroom that is functioning successfully as a third teacher will be responsive to the children’s interests, provide opportunities for children to make their thinking visible, and then foster further learning and engagement."

Susan Fraser
“….The ‘environment as the third teacher’ approach requires us to be very purposeful and deliberate when making decisions about learning spaces. By offering environments that are welcoming, flexible, content-rich, and organized, we are supporting students in their learning process before they even walk into the classroom.”

--article notes and excerpts from “Environment as the Third Teacher: An Introduction to the Reggio Emilia Approach”, by Jennifer Duffy (www.fomcore.com)
**Reasons to use**

**ROSE OF JERICHO**

@soulfulvibesco

- Erases Negative Influences
- Brings Peace
- Increase Wealth
- Increase Positive Energy
- Prosperity
- Cleanse Negativity
- Abundance
- Brings Harmony
A space of true learning for all community members needs to...

- meet the needs of the students
- be welcoming, flexible, content rich, and organized
  - create a sense of belonging and safety
- provide opportunities for deep learning and creative exploration
- support competent and meaningful collaboration
- offer flexibility and responsiveness to changing student needs
  - encourage a mindset of curiosity about the world
- allow students to be comfortable, confident, and inquisitive
- show reflections of themselves/their learning in the design of the space
BE YOU

How do we celebrate and help to build and encourage the unique attributes of each of our community members?

How are being yourself and leadership intertwined?
What is the level of care and concern that we have for each other? How do we lead with humanity and dignity?
CULTURE & COMMUNITY

How do we exemplify and live the values of care and concern for each other, and celebrate and challenge each other with respectful boundaries?
11. Make it new

Look at your learning space with 21st-century eyes: Does it work for what we know about learning today, or just for what we knew about learning in the past?
12. Support great teaching

Free teachers from the traditional desk at the front of the classroom and encourage new settings for teaching and learning.
14. Multiply intelligences

Allow students time and space to choose what they want to do—their choices will illuminate their individual strengths.
Display learning

Posting student work, both current and past, up on the walls tracks progress in a visible way.
18. Unite the disciplines

Art and science need each other. Discoveries—great and small—happen when the two come together; so give students places for cross-disciplinary work, and who knows what creative genius will flourish.
20. Make peace with fidgeting

Think of it as brain development, which it is. Then think of how to make room for it in the classroom.
38.

Make them proud

The rich cultural traditions of a school’s students offer design opportunities. Embracing them is a mark of respect that tells students that where they come from matters as much as where they’re going to.
55. Trigger the senses

Sound, smell, taste, touch, and movement power memory. An environment rich in sensory experiences helps students retain and retrieve what they learn.
62.
Put the fun in fundamentals
Injecting a learning space with playfulness and humor creates a warm and welcoming atmosphere.
Create a movement

Engage in meaningful conversations about changing the education landscape. Parents, teachers, students, principals, community members, and politicians are all important and powerful stakeholders in this movement.
Grow Over Time

From time of being at my lowest
Trying to free myself from pain
at the slowest
But I just couldn’t focus
For a moment I had to notice
I had to become a river to start flowing
I write this poem unaware of my potential
So I give you this message being a little influential
Telling you change your mindset
You can come up from anything in life as long as you are prepared,
To take the challenges stopping you from greatness
So today I tell you, fly like a bird while the pain dies
Having your freedom is a choice
But you need the change of mind

~ Dimitrius Boyd

72.
Put theory into practice

Give students space—studios, workshops, and laboratories—where they can test ideas for practical applications.