



TRANSCRIPT

Copyright © 2019 Orange County Superintendent of Schools. All Rights Reserved.

Title: 2020 OC Teacher of the Year – Melinda Moen

- To think like an artist is to be able to invent new ideas you're creating something but what's more than that is it's also reworking an idea over time.
- Ms. Moen everyday brings a smile, she's always enthusiastic to be here at work but she also brings this sense of excitement.
- Victor! Welcome to my TV show. This is called art class. Someone once said creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes but art is knowing which ones to keep and I really like that motto. I think I am art education. I'm this weird duality of being left brained but right brained in the same time.
- It's at home too. When I think she's done she's tapped out wake up in the morning and there's you know a sheet with crayons and some sort of intricate art thing for her kids.
- She's in charge of art school, ceramics, her drawing and painting, band, choir, and dance.
- I just love the art classrooms I think I took every art class they offered at my high school and then was a TA for like two periods my senior year and then when I got into college I loved taking a little bit of everything. And then I found myself helping others with their work and getting them to explain it to me and then somebody said once like, "Oh gosh you're like you should teach the class." And I thought, "Gosh and I really like this whole like managing creative people and getting pulling the best out of them." And I mean and then I get to make art everyday? This is a dream job.
- Whenever you walked into Ms. Moen's class it always just felt so positive.
- I feel like I am awakening or nurturing this side of their brain that's been kind of dormant. We are learning the foundation of how do you communicate visually we're learning how to draw. Drawing to me is a language.
- If you know there's a lesson plan obviously you know there's usually lines and rules you had to follow for a lesson but if you asked her hey is it okay if I kind of like break the rules a little bit she would be super supportive of you you know?
- I try to trick 'em I'll be honest. So I feel like the rigor is like the kale in the smoothie. You put in the strawberries and the milk and honey and blend it up but no one can taste the kale. Analog drawing is an exercise that artists do to help them basically make something that is invisible like music visible. I know that failure is a necessary bi-product of creativity. And that kind of goes against our whole grade system in general.
- I think when kids realize like art isn't just like in the history book it can be really inspiring.
- [Vaneda] I feel like Ms. Moen's class was one of those classes that really gave you the confidence to you know to see something valuable in yourself.

- I really just want my students to be better understanding of who they are as people, feelings can lead us to deeper knowledge.
- I spent a lot of time trying to give its you know a lot of like teachers and faculty members that I was fine but she actually one day was like, "Hey what's wrong?" And that was the first time anybody had asked me what was wrong.
- I just think it's such an honor to be able to be around these young people who are just figuring out who they are and once you get to know them you're able to like call out what's good and what's like true in them and it's not important what I think that that they are kind of discovering who they are as people. You are just going to listen. You are going to let the music kind of run through your brain through your heart and soul whatever you're feeling that day and it's gonna come out through your hands just making marks on the paper.
- This chair is something someone designed. You are watching this and it's made my artists. So if you say that you don't think art is important then stop looking at your phone stop watching TV stop playing video games stop listening to music stop sitting on chairs.
- But then it had like an energy to it right?
- I just love the process of creating art. I just want to be around it all the time. Thinking like an artist is being able to problem solve. It's being able to think critically.
- Thank you so much Ms. Moen I feel like you really did change my life.
- Ms. Moen you are a badass for dealing with all these crazy high school students. You should definitely never stop being you.
- In genuine honesty no one else could compare to an amazing teacher that you are.

###