

## **Philosophy of Teaching and Learning**

My journey into education as a native German speaker with a deep-seated passion for teaching has been shaped by a lifetime of experiences, intertwining seamlessly with the guiding principles of the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme. These principles resonate deeply with me, drawing from my personal encounters and shaping my approach to education.

At the heart of my teaching philosophy lies a commitment to student-centered and project-based learning, where students are active participants in their own education. This approach empowers students to take ownership of their learning journey, fostering independence, curiosity, and a sense of responsibility. Through collaborative projects and hands-on activities, I aim to create engaging learning experiences that spark creativity and critical thinking.

The cornerstone of my teaching philosophy also lies in the creation of a caring community, a principle instilled in me through my own experiences of language acquisition and living abroad. Having traversed the complexities of learning a new language and adapting to life in a different country, I understand firsthand the importance of fostering an inclusive and supportive environment. This shared understanding cultivates a sense of belonging and trust, laying the groundwork for effective communication and collaboration in my classroom.

Furthermore, as a language teacher, I am committed to nurturing critical thinking and inquiry skills among my students, mirroring the IB's emphasis on developing inquisitive and reflective learners. Having navigated the intricacies of language acquisition myself, I appreciate the intellectual and cognitive challenges that language

learning entails. I strive to encourage my students to explore diverse perspectives and engage deeply with linguistic and cultural concepts, empowering them to become thoughtful and discerning individuals.

My personal journey of living abroad and immersing myself in different cultures aligns closely with the IB's focus on intercultural understanding. Just as I encourage my students to become internationally-minded individuals, I am driven to foster an environment where linguistic proficiency is coupled with a deep appreciation for cultural diversity. For me, language serves as a bridge that connects people across borders, and I am committed to nurturing this perspective in my students.

Moreover, as someone who has relocated to the US and navigated ESL classes, I understand the importance of being open-minded and adaptable in the language learning process. This firsthand experience underscores my belief in the value of embracing flexibility and resilience, both as a language learner and as an educator.

In essence, my philosophy of teaching German is rooted in a rich tapestry of personal experiences and the guiding principles of the IB programme. By fostering a caring community, promoting inquiry, embracing intercultural understanding, and encouraging adaptability, I aim to provide my students with an enriching and transformative educational experience—one that equips them with linguistic skills and nurtures their growth as lifelong learners and compassionate global citizens.