

"We believe..."

We respect students as artists and honor their aesthetic.

In TAB studios, students are the artists. They find inspiration, envision an idea, design a plan of action, reflect on their progress, persist through difficulties, and see projects through to completion.

Students deserve a studio experience that is parallel to how artists work in the world.

TAB studios help students to be independent artmakers who feel confident and prepared to make art outside of the classroom and the direct purview of a teacher. TAB teachers use the artistic thinking habits of professional artists to model teaching behaviors and help students "think like artists."

We celebrate the artistic process as the most important artifact of student learning.

Art products that emerge from TAB studios look like they are designed and created by students themselves, not adults. They are often a response to what the learner values, involve components of youth culture, and are strikingly different from whole-class sets of teacher-directed artworks. TAB teachers value evidence of student thinking that emerges during the learner-directed artmaking process.

Choices maximize engagement, encourage experimentation, and support artistic idea generation.

Choices are at the heart of TAB practice. We believe that when students determine the what, how, and with whom of their artmaking process, good things happen. These include increased engagement and intrinsic motivation, heightened student agency and self-efficacy, practice with creative thinking, and long-lasting skill development.

As an artistic community, teachers and students reflect constantly on their practice.

Just as there is no one "right way" to make art, there is no single way to practice TAB. Instead, there is a community of educators, bound together by shared goals and values, constantly reflecting and collaborating to improve teaching and learning. We honor our communities by using group norms to guide conversations. In the studio, students mirror these practices through group reflections and guided critiques to help inform artistic decisions.

We believe teachers learn best from other practicing teachers.

TAB is a grassroots movement, created by and for teachers. We believe that when teachers lead other teachers in professional development, all benefit. We trust teachers as professionals.

Studios reflect the emerging interests and identities of our communities and prioritize voices from underrepresented artists.

The TAB philosophy values everyone's artistic work. We expand the canon of our curricula to include the works of artists which relate to what is important to our communities and amplify voices that have been historically suppressed.

The sense of agency fostered in our studios empowers students to be changemakers.

Art made in TAB classrooms is an extension of the voice and values of each student. When TAB students are encouraged to use personally meaningful ideas to express messages and feelings, they often use art to illustrate their developing understandings and advocate for what they believe in. TAB studios amplify student voices and empower young artists to create art that addresses issues they care about.