



# DE LA SALLE ACADEMY

*Celebrating 35 Years of Educational Excellence*

## **Can you tell me a little bit about yourself and why you decided to go into education?**

After college, I worked in planetariums, museums, libraries, and parks across NYC creating math and science workshops. My most formative experience came working with incarcerated youth. This gave me the opportunity to promote learning in a stripped down atmosphere with no extrinsic motivators to be found. What remained was human connection and a chance to practice self-determination and healthy habits of mind. This expanded my understanding of what a lesson plan and learning objective could be. Since then, I've been totally hooked.



## **What do you most want people to know about our students?**

Our students have big hearts. Our students have strengths and voices that make the world a better place. Our students are not taking their education for granted. It is remarkable to me how open each student remains to practicing new skills and how wonderful they are at connecting ideas across subject areas to what they are uncovering about the world they are growing up in.

## **What values guide your work as a teacher at De La Salle?**

Students may arrive with a perception that they are good or bad at the subject. I ask them to unattach from that perception. Math will feel frustrating. That is the mind expanding. Science will feel messy and lead to more questions than the one they started with. My intention is to create space for each student to become aware of their approach to problem solving and develop ways to communicate with clarity and precision.

## **If a new teacher came to De La Salle today, what advice would you have for them?**

What seems to be helping me is taking the same advice we give students. Be honest, do your best, ask for help when you feel stuck, forgive yourself, carve out time to reflect, find mentors and feel empowered to share your strengths. Oh, and don't forget to drink lots of water, eat vegetables and go to bed early!