

**Before 654: What knowledge and skills do you feel are most critical to you to learn in this course as they pertain to: 1) your students 2) your teaching 3) your personal creative work? 32 responses**

1) how to effectively increase motivation, 2) how to apply more opportunities for creativity and choice, 3) to take time for myself to "relearn" what and where my creative flows

1) Learn how to assess students using their different attributes on creativity. 2) Create multi-content projects aligned to the curriculum of my courses. 3) Anything. I just want to be a sponge in the course to become more creative.

1) How I can encourage creativity and give more opportunities to explore their creativity. 2) How I can create a classroom environment where students feel comfortable making mistakes and trying new things. 3) How I can build more time into my day to think about my own creativity - I've lost this in the last few months, and I'm really excited for this class because I am hoping to get that back!

I feel it is important for me to understand the process in which a student can be identified as creatively gifted. It's important for me as a teacher to be aware of the process so that I can best guide a student who has the potential for being creatively gifted.

How to insert creativity into content and how to be more open to creativity

I really want to learn more about the creative process, and how to best bring it out in my students.

How to encourage/explicitly teach critical thinking skills

I would like to learn how to better combine the ability to allow students an opportunity to demonstrate their creativity while also demonstrating their knowledge of the content.

Understanding student creativity, being creative in the way I teach students and find a way to be creative in the way I communicate interest in hobbies.

I want to have concrete strategies for supporting and promoting creativity in the classroom.

I never truly considered myself creative, until now when I had to sit down and consider it. I grew up in a house that had a great appreciation for the arts (music, visual, and theatrical). I started taking piano lessons at the age of 7. I picked up the flute in 5th grade and played through college. My parents and grandparents took me to plays. I joined the drama club in 11th grade and realized I was really good. If I was shown how to complete the role, I impersonated that role to a T. I was never great with creating art myself, but I gained a deep level of appreciation for artwork. My dad would take me to art auctions and we would explore

art museums. Additionally in my adult life if I found something I liked, I would recreate it and add my own personal touch to it. I have even started this process with my own children so they may have a deep appreciation for art/creativity too.

In the classroom, I see so much potential in my students to be creative and I want to bring that out in them. But I don't know how or what the first steps should be to bring this potential forward. I want to make my classroom a warm, welcoming environment where students are challenged through interest-based and meaningful learning. Additionally, I want my students to be creative in their work and thought process. Through the little bit I have gotten to know my students already, they are a creative group. I can't wait to be a sponge in this course to learn as much as possible so I can draw out their creativity and further enhance their learning experience. How can I be more creative in my instruction and lesson delivery? How can I bring my students' creativity out more in their assignments? These are some of the answers I am looking to find in this course.

How to incorporate creativity into my lessons and to get my students to be creative and step out of both of our comfort zones.

I have never felt like a very creative person, but I understand the importance of allowing my students to use their creativity and develop their skills. I hope to gain a better understanding of what creativity in a math classroom looks like and how I can foster excitement for pursuing more creativity.

I am a very creative person and try to incorporate a diverse and individualized creative opportunity for my students to showcase their learning. Creativity is an area I feel confident in but I am unfamiliar with the academic aspects of creativity.

Recognize that creative-productive giftedness cannot always be quantified with a test score..

Giving students control over their creativity and supporting their needs.

I need to learn the creativity instruments to both help students and strengthen my teaching. How can I add more creative problem solving to lessons and help others create an environment that fosters creativity? Creating time to explore creativity within myself and understanding in what particular ways I am creative.

1. providing opportunities for them to express their creativity in the content we cover. 2. being able to present the content in different manners that allow opportunities for maximum comprehension 3. being able to utilize my creativity in what I do.

I most want to learn how to encourage creativity in all three aspects. I am creative as a performer but I want my students to be creative as well and not just perform things the way I tell them to!

Understanding and applying divergent thinking are critical aspects to learn for my students. I feel that knowing the theories and models of creativity will be beneficial to me personally and as a teacher.

Learning about and being able to apply creative assessment instruments to all facets of my professional life

How to incorporate and support creative thinking in the classroom.

I do not know much about creativity theories. I am somewhat familiar with creativity instruments of assessment, but on a surface level.

1) Giving students a creative outlet - showing students that they don't have to be good at drawing/art in order to be creative 2) Learning more about creativity in the classroom and applying it to my teaching 3) I need to be a little more creative in my personal work

1. I want to learn how to motivate my students through creativity. One of the biggest problems the district has is lack of student motivation. However, I know how excited students get when they have the opportunity to be creative. I want to take that creativity to the next level and incorporate it more into everyday classroom life. 2. I want to learn about the types of creativity assessments to make my rubrics for myself and my students more well-rounded and robust. 3. For my personal creative work, I want to learn about creative problem solving and apply it to my work and home life, as well as my own creative endeavors.

In this course, I feel that the knowledge and skills that are most critical for me to learn as they pertain to my students and my teaching is how to effectively bring the creative process into the classroom in order to encourage student motivation, problem solving, and divergent thinking. I think understanding the creative process at a deeper level would allow me to grow in my own personal creative work; therefore, then modeling for my students and allowing them to be more creative thinkers.

Being in a math class, I would like to find creative ways for students to express themselves. As well as giving opportunities to express math concepts in a creative way. Math is very logical, so putting creativity in a math class I find difficult.

Learning how to serve gifted students and identify them

Be able to identify creativity, nurture creativity, better ways to implement creative teaching strategies.

I think it is important for me to learn about the theories, models and research for including creativity in my teaching. I believe that this will support me in giving me a rationale for allowing students time for creativity in our daily lesson plan. Knowing these theories will help me to feel more comfortable and supported to incorporate creativity into my gifted classroom.

The statements "I can apply core attitudes and other aspects of the creative process to my personal life and to the creative process and performances of others." and "I know the areas in which I am creative and am comfortable exploring my own creativity and creative process." are the most critical for me to learn because understanding my own creativity and the creativity of others will allow me to better understand the process of creativity. These skills will also impact my students through my teachers. After this understanding, I will be better prepared to create environments that are more conducive and supportive of motivation and creativity.

**Before 654: What are your thoughts on this statement? "A teacher who explores their own personal creativity is better prepared to supporting creativity in the classroom." 31 responses**

100% agree. I want to grow in my personal creativity to better allow students to access their creativity.

I agree with this statement! I think being creative and exploring that creativity makes me a more open-minded person. I'm more willing to try new things, mess something up, and try again! I think this has carried over into my teaching, but I'm still figuring out how to help my students share this mindset.

I agree with this 100%. In order to understand the mindset of a creative student, it is important to understand the journey the student has to take. Making those connections in the classroom may just help a creative child realize their potential.

I think a creative teacher absolutely is better at using creativity in the classroom

This statement is absolutely true. Before we can understand others, we have to first learn to understand ourselves.

You can't lead someone to a place you've never been

I believe this to be true because if an individual cannot understand their own creativity levels, then how can they understand the creativity possessed by others.

I think this means if you think creatively you are going to enlighten learning in creative ways in the classroom.

In general, experience gives us greater ability to empathize and relate, so that applies to creativity, as well. It does give a bit of a leg up, but I don't think it's \*necessary\* for being able to support creativity in the classroom.

I completely agree with this statement. The teacher who understands and knows their own creativity will be more creative in the classroom with their students. Additionally with a deeper understanding and appreciation for creativity, the teacher will be able to support their students and bring out their students' creativity more effectively. I look forward to learning more this semester so I can become a better teacher in this regard.

I have mixed feelings about the statement. I think a teacher who doesn't explore their own personal creativity can still help facilitate students with their creativity. On the other hand if the teacher knows how to go about it and has gone through the process then they might be better apt to guide their students through the process.

I would agree with that statement as I believe it can be applied to almost anything one is teaching. This also means I am going to have to be ready and open to explore a side of myself that I don't feel strong in.

I totally, and completely agree. I experiment, explore, and utilize my creativity in every aspect of my life. In my personal/private life I use my creativity as a secondary source of income. I have two small businesses one called "OF" Once Forgotten is where I am a photographer, painter, seamstress, and the refurbishing of everything from old campers to furniture. The second is new (a suggestion of yours) I opened a teachers pay teachers account and have been creating gifted lessons and activities this shop is called Creative Expanse. I'm working on creating a packet that could be used to create a four-year plan that schools could use to prepare students for after high school choices by breaking them up into experiences at each stage of high school. I am also working on a book (also your suggestion) when completed it will be an all-encompassing manual with detailed step-by-step guides and reflection prompts. I use my own experiences with all of these creative interests to make my classes more interesting and customizable for my high school students.

Agree. We should be open to new ideas, to explore things that excite us. When stuck in a rut, it is difficult to see other, potentially better ways of doing things.

I would agree, however, this can be challenging for many teachers.

IT is very true in the sense that you can easily relate more to your students.

It seems to me that a teacher who is in tune with his or her own personal creativity would be more receptive to creativity in students, and would be more apt to encourage divergent thinking.

If I find enjoyment in creative pursuits, I understand the importance of and will be able to better help my students find and nurture their own creativity.

I agree with this statement 100%. I have always felt that I do a very nice job in terms of creative lesson planning. I also feel I am creative in terms of problem solving. When I hear the term creative, I my thoughts immediately go to art and I am NOT creative and/or artistic when looking through that lens

I believe exploring our own creativity opens up the creativity lens and we see more and add more creativity to our classroom.

I would say that is 100% true. Further knowledge about the subject can only improve creativity support in the classroom.

I agree. The more creative and thoughtful I am, the more interesting and "fun"/engaging my lessons become.

I think this statement applies in the same way that "a teacher who is knowledgeable in their content area is better prepared to support student growth and understanding." The more we know about something, especially about the process of a thought or idea, the better we will be at communicating it with students.

Currently, I would agree with that statement. If I can explore and analyze my own personal creativity, I will be better prepared to support the creativity of my students. As teachers, we must continue to reflect, model, grow, internally analyze, and practice what we teach. By exploring my own personal creativity I will be doing all of those things and will hence be better prepared to support the needs and creativity of my students.

My thought about this statement is that when teachers are open to their own creative aspects of their lives, that they are more prepared/willing to accept creativity of their students.

If you are living and doing it, it becomes easier to apply within the classroom and to others

I feel like your trying creativity out on yourself first, can help gain understanding in serving others.

I agree that the more knowledge a teacher/person has regarding their own creativity, the more likely they are to encourage it in their students.

If you are living and doing it, it becomes easier to apply within the classroom and to others.

I agree with this statement and often think about this in terms of teaching writing. My background in literacy is based in the writing process and modeling the writing process to my students. Before returning to teaching I strongly considered focusing on being a writer myself. Being a writer allows me to speak to students about the process and to understand that it is

that-- a process. I am more comfortable giving students time and space to write for their own purposes and creative expression.

Teachers who explore their own personal creativity will understand their students need for a creative approach to learning.

**After 654: Where did you feel you made the most growth in this class? What areas do you still feel you need or want to improve? 24 responses**

I feel like I grew the most in two different areas, personal creativity and ability to apply creativity within my classroom.

Risk-taking, I like to be in my comfort zone. I want to keep working on taking risks in the classroom. I want to be okay to feel uncomfortable to grow in different ways with my teaching.

I think I made the most growth in applying creativity to my classroom. I was pretty comfortable with my own creative pursuits prior to this class, but I do think that's the area where I want to improve the most. It's been nice making time to do something for the sake of creativity, and I want to keep that up.

I made the most growth in taken time to myself to think creatively. I need to be better in creating activities that are fun and not boring.

I feel like I now have strategies that I can implement into my classroom to make it more supportive of creativity. I also feel more confident that I actually already have been doing a decent job of creating a supportive atmosphere for creativity, so that is reassuring.

I became more willing to spend time on my own creativity. I'm pretty willing to take risks, however, this class gave me permission to stretch my creative thoughts and put them into action.

I made the most growth with trying new things that are not in my comfort zone. I still need to improve on how to get my students to get out of their comfort zone. They are always wanting to use the same format for their projects instead of trying something new.

In understanding the areas that influence a person's creativity and ways to be intentional about being creative. I feel like I could still improve on implementing these ideas into my classroom that will come with practice and reflection.

ability to employ activities to draw out and enhance creativity

Allowing my students to come up with their own ways to express their creativity. Whether through choice boards or modifications to assignments I've made that allow them to bring forth their own interests and talents.

Before this course, I did not see myself as "creative," but I felt as though I was good at encouraging creativity in my students. After this course, I feel that through meditating on and daily reflection about creativity has made me more of a creative person and teacher. We can't lead students to a place we have never been. This course has taught me that I need to be intentional about my creativity if I want to encourage my students to be creative.

I made the most growth in the class in the area of confidence with my own creativity. Now that I feel confident, I feel like I can help my students unlock their own. I still need some practice implementing creativity into my classroom setting, but that will come with time.

Self Reflection by far.

I feel that I made the most growth in understanding how things can be flexible to allow for greater student creativity.

I feel I better understand the need for providing students with time and space for their own creative pursuits. I need to continue growing my own creativity.

Implementing creativity and discipline of creativity into my life.

I feel I most learned about creative individuals of a variety of disciplines. I feel I'm aware of creativity assessments, but am not as well-versed in them as I could be.

I felt that I made the most growth in this class through my understanding of Piirto and creative thinking. I feel like I will be better at fostering creativity with my students because of the knowledge I gained in this class. I think I still need improvement in divergent thinking strategies and creativity assessments.

I think that I made the most growth in this class in the area of understanding the creative process and how it can be applied to the classroom, particularly as we approach educating our gifted students. I still want to grow in my practical application of these skills as an educator.

I have really grown in learning my own creativity and what things I can also do to help students in my classroom.

Honestly, use of technology, learning to voice over my slide projects. Learning some creative prompts for my students.



I felt myself releasing my comfort zone and really looking at things in a different way. I feel like I also have given more to my students in means of creativity. I've created Choice Boards for each month that allow them to explore their creativity.

I felt confidence to try Passion Projects with my students and to use a padlet for monitoring their progress and allowing them to share with their classmates.

I think I made the most growth in understanding the backgrounds of different types of creativity and what students who possess those types of creativity will need in order to be successful.

I feel I made the most growth in gaining an awareness of how understanding my own creativity will help me to understand my gifted students and their need to explore and participate in creative activities. This knowledge will help me to create a learning environment where students are motivated and explore their creativity.

**After 654 Reflection: Please comment on the course itself, the texts, the instructor, the format, pace, level of challenge, anything you wish to share so that I can improve the course:22 responses**

To be honest, I would not change one thing. The course did everything I expected and wanted from taking the course. It pushed me in my personal life and my teaching life.

I really enjoyed this class and everything about it! It was such a great class to take during a pandemic, and I learned a lot about both myself and my field.

I feel this course was influential in helping find my creativity.

I wish we hadn't taken this class in a pandemic. I feel like I would have enjoyed it much more if I weren't dealing with the stress of teaching and parenting in this weird current reality. I think this would have been my favorite class of the entire series had I not been burdened with that outside stress; I love creativity and self-exploration. And that is not to say that I would have preferred \*any\* other class right now... just the act of taking a class \*at all\* right now has been really difficult. I have appreciated your flexibility.

I honestly thought the course load was appropriate and very manageable especially during the pandemic. I didn't feel overly stressed about getting work done.

I found the text, "Understanding Creativity" to be useful. I would have liked to learn other ideas to use with my students to allow them to show their creativity in math and science. I was not a big fan of the Creativity Monster and Sculpture assignments for myself because I did not like how we had certain constraints on the Monster activity because if I was allowed to use scissors then I would have been done with it a lot sooner than I was. On the sculpture I failed

on my first attempt and I had spent a lot of time on my creation, but then when it was in the oven it became ruined. I was so concerned about it because I knew it was going to be shared with others and then I would be judged by it. I think this might be why I don't try things out of my comfort zone because I am worried about failing or what others will think of my creation. I liked the pace because I was able to do some of the assignments at the same time when I had more free time in my schedule. I think it would be beneficial to have met and talked with the cohort, but due to COVID-19 that was not possible. Maybe we could have had a Google Meet to discuss things with each other. Also, have some ideas/suggestions we could do with students in our different fields.

I wish there was more teaching about the readings.

Dr. Groman, you have been a wonderful instructor but as you know, enrollment in a creativity course during a new school year with so many uncertainties and so much stress made many of us feel hindered. I did learn that once I was able to learn how to manage some of the stress, my thoughts that leaned more toward creativity began to evoke new possibilities and I actually looked forward to creative pursuits as an escape. I don't think I could have handled an extremely challenging course during this pandemic, and lucky for me, I'm not a procrastinator, so staying ahead of the workload did help. I do regret that we were not able to have in person class because I think there could have been so much gained from hearing the thoughts and ideas of others.

This course came at a very rough time to be a teacher. Everything we do in the classroom takes three times as long, parents are taking their frustrations with education out on us teachers more than ever, our kids and colleagues are getting sick, and more. Fall 2020 has been the most mentally draining semester I have ever experienced. This has translated into less time and less mental/cognitive energy. I didn't put the effort into this class at the level I should have, and my work is evident of that. I ask your understanding with that. Thank you.

Thank you Dr. Groman! I always love your videos.

Covid was a challenge for all of us. However, this course well done. I would have liked 2 separate videos for the mediation thought log content and the instructional videos. Those are just 2 different parts of the brain. I would watch them once for the mediations and then again for the content. Two different mindsets.

This was a valuable course. I also really appreciated the flexibility with focus questions and that the assignments were not one paper after another.

I enjoyed the creativity project and the space to explore a new interest.

I love this course! Please keep it how it is. The meditation day was the best!

As compared to a 7-week course, the course seemed to plod along almost too slowly. However, it is expected that a 7-week course would progress twice as quickly. I enjoyed having flexibility within assignment perimeters. Thank you for creating and conducting this course for us.

This course was wonderful. I really enjoyed the class. The pacing was perfect, and I enjoyed all of the assignments. Truly, this was a class I will remember and think about for years to come both personally and professionally.

I enjoyed this course. I love Dr. Groman as an instructor. I appreciate the flexibility of this course and how it gave me a chance to reflect on my own creativity as it stands now and how it has changed throughout my life.

I loved the more open ended ways to show what we have learned throughout the course. The feedback from the instructor is very beneficial and really shows she took time to know me.

The course and instruction was very satisfactory to me.

I enjoyed look at myself and my classroom differently. There was a decent balance of reading, application, creativity projects, etc.

I really enjoyed the different format of the class being more introspective and less research and fact based. I enjoyed the biography project and had really looked forward to that when I saw it in the course description.

I think this was my favorite class in the series for the endorsement program. I liked the variety of assignments and ways to show creativity.

**After 654 Reflection: What are your thoughts on this statement? "A teacher who explores their own personal creativity is better prepared to support creativity in the classroom." 24 responses**

This is so true. I never thought about how creative I am in my personal life would improve my creativity in my teaching life and classroom. At first, I started to really think about creativity while I was watching the weekly videos or completing the assignments. After 6 to 7 weeks of the class, I started to think about creativity throughout my entire day with anything I would do.

This course has changed my outlook on creativity for my entire future of teaching.

I think this is so true!!! We are always modeling what we want our students to do, and creativity should be part of this. I have tried more creative assignments for my students this year, and I want to keep that going.

This is a true statement because when you explore different things and create fun assignments for students that finds their creativity that supports creativity in the classroom.

I still believe that experience results in greater empathy, which applies to creativity, as well. And perhaps it's more than just a leg up for supporting it in the classroom. Some, or really \*all\* of those core attitudes really need to be in place for an environment to truly be supportive of creativity.

I agree with this statement. Being able to use creativity and to be comfortable with putting oneself out for others' to judge is hard for students to do and adults as well. A teacher who understands how this feels will be able to help creatively gifted students as well as all students push through those barriers and embrace their creative selves.

I still have mixed feelings on this statement. I do think with me struggling on my creativity has made me more aware of how I handle my students now. I am having more empathy for them and know when I should step in to help lower their anxiety when they are struggling.

I agree with this statement, but there is also the knowledge about how to do that effectively.

“people don’t buy what you do, they buy why you do it.” ~ Simon Sinek. "How Great Leaders Inspire."

To help students be creative, teachers must lead by example, and openly share their original ideas with the class.

I completely agree. Students are wise enough to know when their teacher is faking it! If I am able to honestly relay information about my own creative nature and show examples of my creative products, I think they will be more inclined to attempt their own.

I echoed this sentiment in an earlier statement. We all want our students to show creativity (which is oftentimes interpreted) as "effort." If we don't demonstrate our own creativity, our students won't. When I think about some of the best experiences I've had with students, it was most usually when I assigned a very creative project/assignment. This course has encouraged me to be more intentional with my creative process.

I think I lived this statement this semester. Thank you so much!

100% agreed

I agree 100%. Without challenging myself to be more creative it's hard to know what the students are going to be feeling.

My response has not changed...If I find enjoyment in creative pursuits, I understand the importance of and will be able to better help my students find and nurture their own creativity.

Truth! I have seen this in my own classroom this year. This is such a great year to add this as well. I feel a stronger connection to students. They see me as more than a math teacher!

Yes, it only makes sense that a teacher who explores his or her own personal creativity would have the tools necessary to better support creativity in the classroom. Creativity takes some vulnerability, bravery, and determination to explore and teach.

I agree. If I'm open to my own creativity, then I'll be more open to their ideas. If I share what I'm doing creatively in my own life, I think students will be more willing to take chances and be creative.

I agree with that statement. As teachers, we must explore our own creativity in order to foster and encourage creativity in our students. This takes reflection, self-discipline, and practice, and can be uncomfortable at times; however, by exploring our own creativity, we are better equipped to help our students grow.

I love that statement. Me realizing and investigating my own creativity I believe will allow me to enrich students in my classroom. I will have the experience to help them be able to see their creativity with opportunities in my classroom.

I think that is very relevant because a teacher that knows how to be creative is better equipped to help her students be creative as well as herself for her own wellbeing.

If I can step out of my zone, I can encourage students to step outside of their zones. I can encourage them to do something new, while also requiring them to work through problems.

I believe that after exploring my creativity I understand better that students may be motivated to try new forms of creativity if they are pushed because of a deadline, requirement or assignment. A student may discover that they really do enjoy poetry or film making they just had never tried it. I also realize that some students do not feel comfortable with being "in the spotlight" and that there are other ways for us to share creative projects. Knowing they have to present sometimes causes students to avoid taking risks.

If you know how you function as a creative individual and where your creative strengths lie, you are better able to help students find their own strengths and help them understand why creativity is important. If you are familiar with the creative processes through personal experience, you will be more ready to teach those processes to someone else.

I feel better prepared to serve my gifted students knowing and exploring my own creativity. I can support the creativity of my students in my classroom by sharing my own creative

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experiences and pieces. Sharing my creativity with my students will invite students to explore and share their experiences.