

An Avenues Classroom

“I’ll tell you one thing. If you learn it by yourself, if you have to get down and dig for it, it never leaves you. It stays there as long as you live because you had to dig it out of the mud before you learned what it was.”¹

In an Avenues classroom:

Students are active and invested;
students’ voices are heard and respected;
teachers help students make choices in their explorations.

Teachers guide students to ask questions that lead them to a depth of understanding and skill.

Students are engaged and work collaboratively in skill-based investigation and discussion;
students teach each other and learn from each other.

Meaning is derived from knowledge acquired through discovery.

Students understand that the process of asking the right question is as important as simply getting the right answer.

Learning is in the digging; in the process more than in the product.

Students are encouraged to be daring and skeptical in inquiry.

Depth is valued over breadth.

Humor and curiosity overflow.

¹ Aunt Addie Norton, as quoted in Elliot Wigginton, *Sometimes a Shining Moment* (Doubleday, 1985)