

My Working Assumptions

Learning is one of the great joys in life.

Because of their experiences with many teachers, students are experts on what works and doesn't work in school. Therefore they should have a say in how the class operates.

When people are forced to do what they don't want to do, unwanted consequences happen.

Within a group, every person has different strengths and weaknesses, so we should share the wealth.

Teaching does not cause learning. Grades do not cause learning. The desire to learn causes learning.

Academic success requires personal work. There is no free lunch.

Since every person learns in a unique way, students should have a lot of choice in *how* they learn. Since every person has different needs and motivation, we shouldn't always do the same thing at the same time.

If we are going to minimize the institutional rules that make school feel like a machine, we are going to have to boost the amount of mutual trust and respect we give each other.

Since high school students are actually adults, they should be treated as adults and should act like adults.

Since students know themselves better than a teacher can ever know them, they should be largely responsible their own learning. It's also good practice for life.