Teaching middle school students the value of creativity is important because…

* It is therapeutic, it fosters problem solving skills, it reminds us all that there is more to us than the ‘student’ or ‘teacher’, it is a way to connect with others and a way for others to find value in who we are and what we can do
* Opens minds to problem solving; creativity = problem solving and critical thinking = 21st century skills for jobs/life
* Helps to create individuals that are willing to explore new ideas and take risks
* Being creative is an incredibly useful skill; learning to adapt where necessary and using problem-solving skills is critical to success in all aspects of life; nothing goes exactly as planned 🡪 be creative and figure out how to make it work
* No matter what area of life you need to be able to think differently, come up with a new way, a new idea, a new solution
* Creativity is a way to tell the unique story about yourself to others; it also adds values to their work – because it is especially theirs; sometimes making can be more meaningful than mimicking
* It teaches them how to learn, on their own terms
* The best responses come from some place else
* Today facts and formulas are not the key to success for this generation – it’s problem solving which you must be creative to do
* It is becoming the marketable skill; it recognizes the worth of the individual; all benefit from it through being the creator, being inspired by the creation
* Everyone has a special gift; finding out what those creative gifts are is the big challenge; it is so rewarding to see a student’s face light up when they suddenly realize they ‘understand’ or accomplish something they didn’t think they could do
* They are developing and if we don’t get it to them now, it may be harder for them to accept later when they have to conform more; it’s also a great way to take risks and discover new talents
* Our world is less black and white than it used to be – creativity can be used for social and academic and culture
* Being creative is the basis for exploration and new discovery; creativity is expressive and makes individuality shine in our students; seeing some students be fearless with their creativity is a great model for other students to do the same; having adults/teachers encourage and support it encourages other students to do the same
* It can be fun; it can be mentally challenging; forces them to use parts of their brain sometimes they don’t get to use; often real-life jobs will need to use it
* It fosters individuality; it gives opportunity for us to see a whole student; it provides opportunity to make mistakes and learn from them
* The world and society are creative places; every day, every experience, is full of new opinions, perspectives, and ideas; one’s mind needs to be creative in order to listen, accept, learn, and adapt
* They need to learn who they are, accept who they are, and go forward sharing themselves with the world (ultimately)
* It allows self-expression, demonstration of knowledge and intelligence in different ways, motivating and inspiring and eye-opening
* At this age students are deciding who they are; they are becoming adults and it is important for them to feel free to be unique; children learn in many ways and we can learn a lot more from our students if we allow them to be creative and share their strengths
* It gives them a chance to express themselves more fully; it demands high level thinking
* Soon, it will count for more, so it is important to figure out who you are and what you can do
* These are the years where students are most self-conscious and trying to be like everyone else; we need to break that mold
* That is the way the world is beginning to think; everyone has an idea but to know what to do with that idea is most important
* It encourages each student to become his or her own person
* It shows them not everything is black and white and that there are multiple ways to solve a problem or reach an answer; it promotes the idea that they can use whatever strategies work for them or that they are comfortable with to be successful
* It helps them solve problems which they will need not only in future workplaces, but in their personal lives
* I feel they become risk-takers and are comfortable when an idea didn’t work out as they thought it would, but keeping trying with encouragement from me and, more importantly, from other students
* They so often look for the ‘answer’ we want; many students only want to spit back what we have said; developing independent thinkers/creative thinkers is critical
* They need to feel important and accepted; giving positive feedback for their own creative way of doing things make them feel good about themselves
* They have to know that it works better when you have an end game, a true objective
* It’s how things grow, change, and develop
* Students at this age are very impressionable; students need to learn about what type of a learner they are; exposure; teach them to step out of comfort zone and be ok with it
* Flexibility; problem solving skills; express themselves and their emotions; develop a personal style
* In a time when they are often resistant to adult guidance, creativity allows them to express themselves (while often allowing teachers to set parameters)
* Allows students to be themselves and share their personality; allows students to feel comfortable
* Kids need to be able to express themselves and their ideas, thoughts, and feelings in ways meaningful to them
* The ‘world’ (families, social groups, work environment) is connected and collaborative and demands creativity of participants (or at least open-mindedness – willingness to consider the creative ideas of others)
* Creativity is part of long term learning and will help them adapt in a changing world; creativity is essential to problem solving
* We need for them to realize that their ideas are special and important even though they may not be held by the majority and that it is important that they share their differences, not hide them
* School is not about learning information, or at least that is merely a small part; school is about learning how to think, not what to think; students need to be encouraged to think creatively because that is the most important of any skill we teach them
* It allows the students to demonstrate who they are as an individual; we need to hear/see the creativity for the ‘survival’ of our future
* It helps them discover their own talents; it helps them ‘fit in’; it places value upon the work we do as teachers; it provides avenues for kids to learn, share, express, and build relationships
* So often kids value the ‘sameness’ in each other at this stage; too much of education encourages non-creative thought; our world desperately needs the creativity of us all, especially the next generation
* Creativity can mean so many things: thinking, writing, thinking, socially; I think it’s important to create an environment in which students can creatively challenge different perspectives and ideas in a respectful manner
* They can learn better by taking ownership in their own ideas, yet still learn by the scaffold given by the teacher
* Great ideas/thoughts come from creativity
* They are ever-changing; they are at a unique vantage in terms of development/perspective; motivation is crucial
* It exercises their self-expression; without creative thought, students feel trapped in the ‘cardboard box’ of what everyone else adheres to
* It allows students to be themselves; express themselves
* It sets your heart free
* Students at this age are extremely impressionable, and they should have their personalities/creative traits be fostered so they can truly grow while they are here
* It is the premise of all innovation, especially in STEM subjects
* The world is constantly changing and we can’t teach them everything they need to know because we don’t know what they’ll need to know in the years to come; we have to provide them with the basics from which they must experiment, build, and constantly tinker to meet new, unexpected challenges
* Creativity is so necessary throughout life, in one’s personal life and employment; employers value one who is confident and creative; it helps middle school students to learn many ways to deal with one issue or problem
* It allows them to express who they are, and allows them to highlight their strengths; teaches students tolerance of other perspectives
* It is a competitive world and you need to stand out; also, being creative is a way to express your identity, learn, and be your own person
* Middle school students are at the stage of learning the skill of critical thinking; they may have answers to problems and we as teachers may ‘plant a seed’ which allows student to solve future problems in technology and society
* It allows true freedom from constraints
* It allows them to realize who they are and more accurately helps them decide who they’d like to become
* I think it’s the crucial element to be an open minded person; I also think creativity opens the doors beyond sports and grades for all students
* An individual is someone who has the ability to create their identity and embrace it, rather than assimilate; we want to encourage this in students and give them the tools to create their lives beyond the classroom; we want to encourage students to think about how their actions can make a better community
* It is important that today’s students become problem solvers, as they are tomorrow’s leaders; I also think creativity and expressing creativity helps students who they are and breeds excitement over seeing different ways of seeing things
* With creativity comes independent thought and self-discovery
* This is the age for exploration, for wonder, and for excitement about life; students are now old enough to understand difficult concepts, but young enough to have broad dreams and hopes for the world
* There’s more than one way to skin a cat – mix it up!
* It helps them think outside the box, see others’ perspectives, have the freedom to bring their own ideas to the table – ultimately, it gives them the flexibility to work/live in a global, complex world
* It fosters divergent thinking; we want students to leave Blake with the ability to problem solve and think beyond the obvious solutions
* It opens up their minds more; it helps to deal with people, ideas, opinions that are different than theirs with more sensitivity