

Uncovering the real mission statement

Most schools have a mission statement and most of them are bs. They know what you want to hear, they know what an ideal school sounds like, so that's what they write. **IGNORE THE MISSION STATEMENT**

Want to get down to the heart of what a school is about, get passed the administrators and talk to the teachers. I can break my teaching philosophy down to a few words.

Learning to be empathic through exploration, discovery, and creativity. You don't need to ask for a copy of every teacher's philosophy, that's going to be a waste of your time, and it's likely that you aren't going to get. But go ahead and ask for a few. The teachers that really know why they're teaching (those are the ones that you want teaching your kid) are going to be able to tell you pretty quickly. The rest will use a lot of educational terms that you don't understand.

There is not a right or wrong philosophy, but a teacher that doesn't know why they're teaching, isn't going to be very effective.

Ask:

Why do you teach?

What is the purpose of what you teach?