

# TRIBAL TEACHING

## The 11 Promises of a Change-Making Animal

- 1. I will always say WE.**  
We are a tribe. We are a language. We are a walk. We are a way. We are fiercely committed to our ethos and each other. We always say WE.
- 2. I will take the wheel.**  
No one is going to tell you what to do, when to do it or how to do it. There is no road-map. There is no text-book. There is no teaching assistant. This class is barely being taught. Make your own way.
- 3. I will bring on my wrecking ball.**  
Challenge the work of those who have come before you. Take on the status quo. Always ask "Why?" We thrive on the creative destruction of each new cohort of students.
- 4. I will not wait for a hall pass.**  
Do not ask for permission. Take action. Take a risk. Go make a mistake. You are going to anyway. When you do, go fix it. Forgiveness is forthcoming for those who take the initiative.
- 5. I will get on my red, white and blue motorcycle leathers.**  
A chasm separates you in your comfort zone from where we need you to be. Get on your motorcycle and make the jump! Your life depends on it. We are waiting for you to join us.
- 6. I will politely tell Barbie and Ken to \*%#@ off!**  
Perfect does not do. Perfect does not work. Perfect does not get its soft manicured hands dirty. You are here to produce. You are not here to win a beauty contest. Misshapen. Uneven. Imperfect. It does not matter. You will get in your big, brown, boxy truck and deliver.
- 7. I will trust Obi-wan and let go.**  
When it comes time to deliver, you will disengage external feedback systems, take a deep breath, and pull the trigger. It always comes together. There is no other ending. We are your Han, R2 and Wedge.
- 8. I will take it on the chin.**  
We work in a harsh and unforgiving environment. It's called reality. Your carefully crafted classroom projects will not survive first contact unscathed. There will be setbacks. Get up. Brush yourself off. And, iterate your way to a solution.
- 9. I will remain monogamous.**  
This is not a project that you turn in, get a grade, and then go on break. We are not flirting. This is no quickie. We are in it for the long-term. Get ready to commit.
- 10. I will talk back to teacher.**  
Your teacher is not an expert. Be stingy with your head nods of approval. Your teacher is not in charge. Challenge her authority. Question his decisions. Voice an alternative direction.
- 11. I will hug.**  
All the best families do.



VERVE