Tim Wood's philosophy on teaching:

Because I come from a business background as opposed to purely an education background, I try to emphasize the practical aspects of everything I teach. This also is important because I am a Career-Technical teacher and my primary objective is to teach marketable skills.

A teacher should have a calm disposition. I learned early on that getting angry and yelling at students is absolutely ineffective. Remaining calm in difficult situations gains respect of students and maintains a stable classroom environment. A teacher also should be courteous to students at all times. It is possible to administer discipline or discuss poor performance in a courteous, but firm and effective manner.

I teach students how to use technology, so it is a major component of my classroom. I also use technology to teach. These are not the same concept. In teaching technology, I use various means of technology such as a projector, PowerPoint presentations, software demonstrations via projector, and Internet-based resources such as Webquests. Our students are digital natives who are wired in to technology. It's important to use technology to reach them. Teachers should be constantly exploring new technology for possible use in the classroom.

I do not believe that all technology is useful for all classes. I like the concept of "appropriate technology" – technology that exactly solves a problem. Throwing technology at students is not effective teaching. Selective use of technology, however, can result in excellent learning opportunities.

Project-based learning is a major part of my instruction. Students learn problem-solving skills and real-world application of their skills by doing projects.

Increase of professional knowledge should be an ongoing project of any teacher. This program certainly has provided a huge amount of professional knowledge. Other sources of professional knowledge are in-service programs, conferences, reading journals and books, and talking with other teachers.

Collaboration among teachers is important. Career-Technical teachers are especially encouraged to collaborate with academic teachers. CTE classes can show the application of the academic concepts that are taught to students. What better way to study mathematics than to see how it is applied to the construction of a building? An art student can see practical applications of design principles in a Visual Communications class. This type of collaboration is valuable.

One type of collaboration that I have done for several years is to produce the school literary book, known as The Stylus. Initially, when I taught printing, my students actually designed and printed the book on our shop presses. When we dropped the printing portion of our program, we turned to an on-line, on-demand book printer (lulu.com) for the printing, but my students continued to do the layout. This gives the students real-world experience in book design. They can use it on a resume or college application. They can see the result of their work in tangible form. This project is done in collaboration with the English department, which solicits student work for the book and selects the articles, poems and photographs that will appear in the book.

As with my teaching skills, my philosophy of teaching undergoes frequent re-evaluation and change. It is important to keep up with the times and benefit from experience and new knowledge.