



PHILOSOPHY OF MUSIC EDUCATION

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Education is important because it provides the basic knowledge that everyone needs. I believe that all people have the right to a good education, and that is what I like about the public education system. The problem that I have with it is that even though all students are in the class and have the right to be, not all educators teach in a student-centered setting. By teaching in this way, students do not feel like they are an important part of their own learning, and that the teacher is the all-knowing master of that particular subject. I want to be the type of teacher that builds their lessons around the students' needs and wants. Along with me teaching based on what they need, I also want to give them the opportunity to teach themselves and their classmates. This, along with the public education system, will give all students the opportunity to learn and discover what they are passionate about. Having knowledge about many different subjects and then having the freedom to choose what to pursue is what I believe to be the most important aspect of formal education. This will allow the students the choice to pursue and become proficient in one thing, while still having knowledge and understanding about the other subjects.

Many of the subjects that students learn in school are interconnected. Many of these subjects are also interconnected with music. Students learn math in order to count measures and rhythms, they use language arts in order to write papers explaining music, science to explain how instruments work, and history to understand where music came from. Learning music in relation with other subjects will give the students a deeper understanding of music. It is important for students to learn about music because music is all around them, and it always will be. Music is a way for students to explain things that they cannot put into words. Emotions and experiences are often depicted with music when someone cannot use words to describe them. Music education gives them the chance to make their own music based on their feelings and life experiences, as well as understand the purpose of other composers' compositions. The main goal of my classroom will be for the students to learn and enjoy learning. While the students learn valuable things about music, they also enjoy themselves and have a desire to learn more. I want to make a fun, respectful, and safe environment through a balance of structure and fun.

I strive to have a classroom where each student feels like they are getting as much out of the class as possible. My students will have the opportunity to expand their knowledge of music while expressing their own creativity and individuality. Beyond playing music, the students will have the opportunity to compose, arrange, and even conduct pieces of their own. If a student has a composition that they wish to present to the class, we will take a day out of our schedule to play it, and I will give that student the opportunity to conduct their piece. I want my students involved in the repertoire for each concert. In order to make this decision, I will play through multiple selections that I have chosen, then the students will vote on which ones they want to play for that particular concert. In this way, the students are directly involved in what they are learning. This will give students from various cultures the opportunity to share the music that they grew up with. I hope that this approach will make my class more interesting for the students and that they will want to play and explore more if they get a say in what we do.

Beyond this fun, free aspect of my class, I believe that students should have a high expectation set on them, as well as for themselves, in order to be successful. Students who

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have realistic, high standards that they are expected to reach will strive to reach them. I cannot let me students believe that doing the bare minimum will get them extremely far in life. They will be expected to meet high standards in their future careers, and in their family lives, so I do not think that I should expect any less from them. In the same way, I think that they should have high expectations of me as well. They should be able to know that I will return their work in a timely manner, that they can rely on me to be in class and prepared, and that I have respect for them. I believe that my classroom should be a place where students feel confident that they can come and bring their concerns to me and that I will treat them all seriously.

Students need music in their lives. Whether it is to show feelings or experiences without words, or to give them something new to think about, they need it. All in all, I believe that all students deserve the same level of education no matter what race, gender, religion, or culture they belong to. Beyond that, I want students to feel like they can share their culture and beliefs with the rest of the class in a safe environment. Not only should I expect a lot from my students, they should expect a lot from me. In all of these things, students are learning music in a fun, safe, productive environment.