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Advocacy Plan

In order to ensure the survival and also thrive of music education in our various districts, music educators must be willing to advocate and support their students. Music educators must prioritize and assess what the current needs of the program are, but there are a few general categories that I feel are especially important. For me, funding was one of the top priorities. Funding is the main resource that provides different sheet music, necessities such as reeds, cello anchors, etc., technology, and other essentials to the modern music classroom. Without the adequate funding, our music programs would not survive. But, funding alone can not fully enhance the music program to a peak level.

The two other main priorities are connection and communication. For connection, I have to not only connect with my students, but also their families. An early connection to the parents will help them and I clearly establish the specific expectations for the program. I also can connect with the students on an individual basis as much as possible in order to build those relationships, but also reiterate the responsibilities. The third main priority is communication. Communication can be in many different forms, but it varies based upon the circumstances in which I am in. I have many resources in which to gain the contact details and send out information quickly. There are several different applications on cellular devices that I can use such as Class Dojo, Edmodo, and Remind. In addition, I can email about different upcoming events. Communication is highly important in order for a smooth school year with the best outcome possible. One other idea for communication is creating an official booster organization for the parents in order to streamline teacher and parent communication on needs and desires.

How do we communicate the importance of our programs to different ranges of our communities? Within communication, there are multiple avenues that I could take. It can be as simple as inviting different faculty, administration, and school board members to concerts or booster events. Even an invitation for a few visitors to come into the classroom from time to time can help bring awareness as to the importance of music education. I have to be willing to let different community members see the real life magic in order to persuade them sometimes. In response, I have to be proactive as well. I have to advocate for my students at the school board meetings when they reassess the budget. I have to be willing to email the state government officials and ask for support for the entire state. This scale of being present and openly honest with people can influence the amount of attention the program receives.

While direct means of communication are amazing, I can ensure more efficiency in showing the impact of the program through a social media page or a website. This allows anyone to access the information behind our program. I can list the needs and also goals for the program in terms of growth or funds for a future trip. Technology has provided some many ways for us to be able to express different dreams for our students, but old-fashioned methods have purpose as well. Handouts and flyers given at concerts or other events can serve as a tool to explain in a written way why music education is important and beneficial. Hopefully through the means of communicating the necessity of the music program, people will in one way or another absorb the information. After that, I can only assume that they would have a decent understanding of the what and why of the program, but it all depends on the effectiveness of the communication. The only way that the program will be involved is if I try the best I can to constantly and consistently express my feelings for what my students need.