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Music Education Philosophy

Every teacher has a background motivation and thought process that causes he or she to educate their students. Some teach to help students gain important life skills, while others teach to allow students to be expressive. Individuality plays a huge role in how each teacher teaches and the goal is to use that motivation to make each teacher achieve what they desire for their students. As a result, I have been on this journey to find these philosophies and then use them to help strengthen my teaching ability as a whole. So what are my true intentions as a teacher and how do I use those pieces of my thinking to engage my students as well as achieve my dreams for them?

At the root of music education is the purpose and action behind. What causes me as a teacher to want to train and prepare my students? There are some that have this passion to teach the appreciation of artistic and aesthetic beauty. Music education for them teaches students how to be creative and explore in different emotional ranges. Others teach music for diversity awareness and to share stories from cultures that the students may not be familiar with. Some teach to help students make pattern connections and to use higher order thinking. Some music educators find the value of teaching students psychological and physical coordination. Some teach because they want the students to have and obtain self-acceptance. Their goal is for the students to realize that they should not change their personality. Finally, some music educators teach because they want to overall enhance a student's quality of life. So no matter what instrument or why the student plays music, the teacher is helping the students to release the tensions of their lives into a healthy and constructive outlet. While these are all amazing reasons

to teach music, I mainly connected with the artistic expression and self- acceptance. However, that does not mean that the other philosophies are wrong or invalid. Instead, how can I use the philosophies I currently have and use them to branch out into other thought processes? For instance, I could teach diversity in music by showing how people express themselves differently. All of these philosophies are what make music education important and necessary as a whole. These various ideas and trains of thought can be used to make the music education even better.

Within the music education realm, the role of student influences how the teacher prepares and delivers the information for that class. The students help to make teaching a two-way road and not just a one-way speech. Teaching requires the students to be engaged and to actively participate in some way. For music education, this is not a problem. Music education involves the students in a creative and fun way that could include dancing, singing (in a normal setting; before COVID-19 happened), playing instruments, or other activities. Because of this the students can have many different roles. For example, the students can be the ones expressing themselves artistically. But the students could be gaining awareness of patterns or sounds from around the world. The students can be learning about the performance process, obtaining knowledge of different cultures, or evaluating the quality of a performance. But no matter what role the students are actively in, the goal is for the students to receive some form of information. Music education empowers students to learn in multiple ways simultaneously. If students learn about music in multiple ways this means that the teacher, in theory, should provide the materials in multiple ways.

Teachers have a huge sphere of influence in students that connect and learn from them, but what are the roles of the teacher in music education? Music educators should desire what is best for the students and unlock every ounce of their potential. However, this is only a single role

that teachers can play in the classroom. Music teachers help students to have a positive mindset towards music. They form important bonds with their students in order to best share the information the students need to know. Music teachers guide their students in the way music relates to the rest of society. Teachers are the conductors for their students to practice self-awareness. This is especially important in order to help students prevent injuries or tension. Teachers allow for classmate to classmate interactions in order to build social skills. Finally, music teachers are supposed to gain awareness of their students. In order to support the students, the teachers have to know their students. Educators teach not for themselves, but for the students. Every role that the teacher has should positively impact their students.

If every music teacher connected with their students, then the community can notice and see what great impacts that music has on children. So within the sphere of music education, educators have to be in contact with the different guardians in the student's life. It may be difficult at first, but connecting with the guardians at the beginning of the school year will benefit everyone in the long term. The guardians need to be informed as to what their student should be doing and why they are doing it. At the elementary school level, this can be accomplished easily at PTA nights or music programs. In the secondary levels, it can be done through concerts or it can be started in a program such as Class Dojo. Through this amount of communication, the teacher can also engage faculty, administrators, and other school staff to gain support. In addition, teachers establishing these relationships among staff members can help the program thrive and gain attention.

Music education, teachers, and students all contribute a fundamental part to creating a society in which music can connect people together. No matter the reason for teaching, the roles being activated, nor the influence in the surrounding community, music education has a critical

role in student academics. Music education enriches the lives of each individual that it connects to. While every teacher and every plan may not be perfect, music can still unify people and each piece of the music education philosophy can be highlighted.