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Philosophy Statement

When I was very young, music was very important to me. I grew up listening to all kinds of music, and was always enthusiastic to learn about music. When I got older, music grew to be an emotional release and great pastime for me. I've always also liked the idea of being a teacher. When I was fourteen years old, I decided I wanted nothing more than to be a music teacher. At that time, however, I didn't know much about music, and knew even less of music education. I have always had the enthusiasm for music and for music education, but I didn't know what music education was, or how to successfully teach people music. I'm still on the way to becoming a music educator, but I have realized that a set of beliefs must be laid out at the beginning of such adventure, to provide a base of beliefs to grow off of. After much thought, I have developed a thesis of what I believe are some fundamentals of music and education in today's society.

Music is important in life for many reasons. Firstly, music is a big part of every culture. Each country has their own unique style of music that they can share with the rest of the world. Music can serve as a means of communication, as well. Sometimes, what we cannot say in words alone we can say through a song so much better and with greater strength and meaning. As well as serving as a means of communication, music can be a method of portraying or expressing emotions. Music can also help people feel happy when they're sad, or remind them of some of their favorite past memories. Also, music is a great source of entertainment. Often, people will attend rock concerts, dance parties, or musical shows. Music is very important in the lives of people, and therefore, should be kept in the world for all to share

The object of K-12 schools is to prepare young people to be successful adults in the world. To do this, the schools must educate people in all different fields of study, and to most school districts, this means English, math, science, and social studies, and foreign languages. These are relevant topics that will create well rounded and educated individuals, however, making room to teach only these subjects will be omitting a large part of our culture, like the arts and especially music. Firstly, studies have shown that learning about music is helping students gain spacial reasoning skills, and can help improve their math grades. Also, without music education in our school systems, we are neglecting to teach our students about a form of culture that is around them every day. We are also ignoring the future of music by doing this, because without knowledge of music learned in schools, we will have no one who understands music to pass it onto future generations. It's not fair to neglect students of this wonderful form of not only culture, but emotional release and communication. Every student deserves to learn about music, and what their personal connection to it is.

I think that music needs to be included in music at all levels. At an elementary level, I think that basic singing skills, like solfege syllables and beginning piano and percussion instruments. If that is not possible, then the students should at least be exposed to learning the recorder. Whichever instrument they learn, they should also learn things like key signature, reading basic musical rhythms, and improvisation as part of learning the instrument. In general music classes, the students should learn about music in different time periods of our country, and about different types of music around the world. By the time the students are in third grade, all interested students should learn strings by Suzuki method, and moves on to reading music in fourth grade. In fifth grade, a demonstration of band instruments is given and interested students start learning band instruments. At the middle school level, I think that band and orchestra

should continue, but exclusive singing groups like choir should start. They all should continue through middle school, and be separated by grade levels. General music should also continue for all students in middle school, going deeper into musical culture and getting into advanced musical concepts. At the high school level, bands, choirs, and orchestras should be separated by ability so that the maximum learning potential can be achieved at every level from beginner to advanced. In these classes, students should play and learn about all different kinds of music, and even begin to learn some basics of music theory. For those students who choose not to pursue band, choir, or orchestra, should take a music appreciation class, which takes them through a preview of all different kinds of music, and teaches them the beginnings of music theory. I also think that special education students should experience music at every level, with a class devoted to basic musical activities and listening to different music and learning about music history. Special education students who are able to should be allowed the opportunity to join band, choir, or orchestra, as well. This will allow music to be in every student's lives at every level of schooling.

In my opinion, a music teacher should be a well-rounded individual. They should be knowledgeable in every field of music, including music as pop culture, music theory, music history, and basic singing and instrumental knowledge. A music teacher should also have enthusiasm for their topic. A music teacher should be willing to help a struggling student. A good music teacher should be personable and friendly, but firm with issues like discipline problems. I believe that I could be this kind of person. I really love music and hope to someday be a successful music educator. I am not yet sure which level or what kind of music that I would like to teach. This philosophy statement is merely the beginning of a learning experience for me. With further education, I can and will continue to develop a specific and meaningful philosophy

on music and education.