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Jr/Sr Methods

Philosophy of Music Education

Music is one of the most important things in my life. For as long as I can remember, music has taken up a huge portion of the events in my life. Because I understand the importance of music and music education in a person's life, I have chosen to become a music educator. I will be certified to teach choral and general music in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve. I am very excited that my career will be something that I love and am extremely passionate about.

Music is extremely important in life. Music is constantly all around us, even when we don't realize it. From in the car, to on an Ipod or cell phone, as well as in shopping malls and grocery stores, music "bombards" us every day. Music is so important because it can convey meaning and feeling that words cannot even come close to saying. I have always loved the quote "When words fail, music speaks." I believe that music can allow people to come out of their shell and express emotions that could not be expressed in any other way. Because of this, music is extremely important. I have seen students be transformed in a choir rehearsal due to a certain piece of music. I have seen people be moved to tears because of a certain song or piece that evoked emotions and created a connection to life. Music is also important because of the human connection. When we make music we are using our bodies, and our body and the instrument or voice becomes

one.

Music should and must be taught in schools. Music (and art) is the only subject that makes possible the knowledge of an aesthetic, or artistic experience. Bruce Pearson said that “music understands our feelings like science understands nature.” Exposing students to music helps them to understand and communicate their own feelings. Music develops skills that can be transferred to many areas in life. All students have musical potential, and children learn best in physical and social environments, which is generally the music education environment.

Certain music should be taught in schools. I believe that music that is taught in schools should be quality music. What is quality music? I believe that quality music is when a musical element and idea can be learned from a certain piece of music. If a student can take away a new learning experience from each piece that he or she performs, then I believe that the music is of good quality. There are other elements that define quality music, such as the melody, accompaniment, orchestration, phrasing, and performance indications. Music from all eras should be represented, as well as music from diverse cultures. I believe that too many children are raised in a bubble where they learn only about their own culture, and it is not until they are young adults that they start learning about other cultures. If we as music educators can teach multiculturalism in all of our music classes, perhaps a more informed and aware generation will arise.

I believe that all should learn music in schools. As I stated before, all students have musical potential, and that potential should be cultivated in schools.

Music should be required in elementary schools, and there should be a minimum requirement in junior and senior high schools. All should learn music in schools because music helps students understand their feelings, and how to express those feelings. Music is a different but positive way where children can be themselves and feel safe at the same time. Music also connects the body with learning. Music is a great way, and one of the best ways to apply hands on learning. When I said that all students should learn music, I meant all, including students with disabilities. I firmly believe that the inclusion of children with disabilities in a regular music classroom setting is extremely beneficial for both the teacher and the student. Children with disabilities who are included in a regular classroom setting receive social skills that they would not receive if they were completely separate. Inclusion also reduces fear and rejection and contributes to a greater opportunity for all members of society. Students with disabilities in a music classroom will have the opportunity to express themselves just as the other students express themselves in a safe environment. Who knows the impact that music may have on any student in a music classroom?

I believe that talented and educated people should teach music. Music teachers need to have a passion for what they do, love the students that they teach, and be completely knowledgeable in what they teach. Music teachers should be educated with a proper degree, and should strive to be a lifelong learner and caring intellectual. Music teachers should be able to properly use assessment in every class that they teach. As a teacher, specifically a music teacher, I want my students

to be able to demonstrate that they have learned the things that I have taught. If I am teaching something in a way that doesn't produce learning, then I will need to adjust my teaching style or approach.

Music is extremely important in life, and quality music must be taught in schools to all students by reflective, educated, and caring teachers who see the beauty in music education. When this occurs, schools become enriched with the power of music, and schools will see their students flourish.