

What to Believe

Through the hard and the good times music is the one thing that I've always been able to count on. It doesn't matter if I feel like laughing or crying, music has always been there right by my side like a loyal friend. But what sparked me to pursue being a music teacher? What drives a person to teach the thing that they love to do? What would that person's philosophy be? There are important questions to consider in order to discover what a person's personal philosophy would be; such as why is music important and who should teach music.

Music is important in life because it is one of the most articulate ways for a person to express themselves; and expression really says who a person is. High school is a time when students search to find themselves and I strongly believe that music is a wonderful way of unlocking all that a student might be searching for. Expression also helps a person direct the emotions that are wordless. As Robert Glidden stated, "Music as an expression of intense feelings supersedes verbal expression, perhaps partly because most of us are not capable of satisfactorily expressing those intense feelings verbally, and partly because in those moments we do not wish to express ourselves verbally" (Glidden 2) As a high school student, or any person, we can often find our minds wandering with questions of why we are who we are. Music, as Glidden pointed, helps us to answer those questions with putting emotion to the wordless.

It's important to teach music in schools because it teaches a discipline that other academic classes don't teach. The Children Music Workshop even states that "Each

academic discipline is important for a well-rounded curriculum. Music and Fine Arts are an academic area of study equal to reading, writing, mathematics and science” Without music in a student’s life there is no longer creativity in the learning, there is no longer expression. This creativity and expression is especially important to school students because that is the time when students start to discover who they are and who they want to become.

It’s important that a wide range of music is taught in schools and that the diversity in music is embraced. “Until the 1960’s, music teacher attempted to ‘teach up’ to what was considered a ‘cultured’ level, meaning the music of the upper economic class” (Mark, 9). This meant that the only music taught in schools before that was western classical musical, which was viewed as the best music. But after the 1960’s it became more important to teach the music that was from the students’ different cultures and to respect each student’s heritage. It is still extremely important to play more than just what’s “popular” or considered “cultured” so that students come to understand different music and find their own personal style of music that they will fall in love with.

Every student, every child deserves to learn music. We can see how music has helped us to learn even when we think all the way back to kindergarten. Think about the when you as a reader where little and learning your ABC’s. Chances are you learned them through a song. Music helps teach us even the most basic pieces of knowledge at an early age whether it is to learn the planets or all fifty states. So children of young ages should be taught music to help them better learn their basic skills.

High school students should learn music because it can be used as an escape during busy and hectic days. I remember that my band class in high school was the one class I looked forward to, because no matter what happened before that class, whatever was wrong in life, a person just left all their problems at the door. It was the best getaway from life I could have ever asked for. I strongly believe that music helps a student stay sane through those chaotic high school years and help keep a person head on straight.

The people who should be teaching music are those who love music. A teacher needs to have just as much of a passion for the music as they do for their students. A person should be caring, considerate, determined. They must also be sensitive towards newer musician and be compassionate towards all. To be a great teacher, they should know how to express themselves. If a person as a musician can't do that, how would one teach a student to be expressive? Also with what kind of person someone should be to teach, they should also be well educated in not only education classes, but theory and performance.

These are all important bits of information that help discover a person's viewpoint. So what is my philosophy? I believe that every child deserves to learn the freedom of expressing themselves from a passionate teacher and to learn to love music and the ability to communicate that love to others.

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Citations

Glidden, R. Response to Bennett Reimer's "Why Do Humans Value Music?". ..

Mark, M. (1996). *Contemporary Music Education* (3rd ed.). New York: Schirmer Books.

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<http://www.childrenmusicworkshop.com/advocacy/whyteachmusic.html>