

Philosophy paper

Music is important to every day life so everyone should have the opportunity to learn about it; however, not everyone should be able to teach it. The differences in music are endless so there shouldn't be a limitation in the amount of music that a student is taught. The music educator has all this knowledge, giving them the responsibility to share it with everyone else.

Music has been a part of everyone's life since the moment they were born. Music and art has been a universal way for people to share their feelings from the past and between each other in the present. The arts in general speak on a level that words alone can not and help people of different cultures and backgrounds relate to each other. This is why music is important to life because it brings everyone together, sports don't do this: sports teams often lead to unhealthy competitive attitudes in young children because the idea of "good sportsmanship" isn't always taught. Music, on the other hand, helps to bring people together. Music teaches young children that they need to be individually responsible as well as work together with everyone else in the ensemble. Ensemble Competitions are done with showing off the performer's hard work, not who can do better with parents sitting on the side lines yelling at the judges.

Schools set the ground work for working together as a team. Many people view gym or extra curricular activities outside of school as the strong points in reinforcing this idea. However, music classes help the student realize that they need to care and put effort

into their own work to be a so called “team player”. When kids are young and don’t know any better they should be shown that they are important in a group as a whole and not just one more person in a bigger entity. If a student learns early on in life that they are just as important as the next person, they will be able to communicate better with their peers and not have low self esteem. They are going to realize that they matter as a person and not just a number in a system.

Music also helps to teach students more responsibility. If they learn that they need to take the responsibility for learning their parts in the ensemble, for everything to work together, then they will also apply it to other course areas. Music helps to teach kids that responsibility can be rewarding by getting a band award for showing the effort, solos or being awarded a high chair position within their section.

All types of music should be taught in the schools. Students should learn that there are differences between periods in music history and that each period brings different characteristics to the music that we hear today. A student needs to have a well rounded education of music and the different aspects that it contains within itself. The different types of music helps the students learn different concepts and can even introduce them to a different time in history or a different cultural background.

The music classroom should not just be used to teach about Mozart and Bach, but show a mixture of repertoire, that a student would not be exposed to in their everyday life. A student should be introduced to other cultural music to broaden their views on music culture. This doesn’t mean that the music teacher is responsible for teaching everything about the cultures that the songs are from. The music teacher should try to explain a little bit about the piece and the background behind them. However, they should

not expand in the other areas of the culture. The culture and other aspects related to the people of the piece should not be taught unless they directly relate to the piece. A good way for a teacher to cement the ideas they teach when doing a multicultural unit is to incorporate other subject areas, such as Social Studies or an English class. This is an excellent way for the music teacher to become friends with other faculty in the building and not alienate themselves to only their department.

As well as learning music from other cultures every student should have the opportunity to experience music. In schools students are required to get math and science in their education because it is something that is in their lives until they die. If anyone is denied the chance to have music incorporated into their education then they are being robbed of learning one of the fundamental things that they live with. Some would say that music is a given knowledge and there is no need to explore it in a class room setting, although music is a natural occurrence, a student will have a better understanding of what they are experiencing in their everyday lives if they get even the tiniest bit of music knowledge.

Children that have disabilities can also benefit from learning a little bit about music or doing something with music on a regular basis. Special needs students can benefit from a music classroom in many ways. They are learning a new way to interact with people and other peers as well as feeling included and not excluded because they are different. A special needs student also helps teach other students how to accept people with differences and to create team work amongst the class. This situation can only work if the teacher is involved in the IEP meeting for that special needs student and everyone that is affected cooperates, as well as keeping an open mind. As an educator, teachers

need to keep expanding their knowledge of the subject and always search for a better way to benefit everyone. As opposed to sitting back and waiting for it to get better or go away.

Not just anyone can make music interesting to the different learners in their class or be able to teach it on a level that everyone can relate to. Music educators should be committed to what they do, be able to incorporate the community into their teaching, and have a very outgoing attitude about their program. It is a music educator's duty to incorporate the community into their music program; it helps bring different positive situations to the program. A music program can not run without students and parents helping out. The only way that a teacher is going to be able to bridge the gap between teacher, parents and student is if they communicate well and stay active in all the programs that they devise. The bottom line is this; a teacher can't achieve any of goals if they don't have a bright outlook about what they are doing or great communication skills.

A teacher needs to have an open mind and understand that all the students in their class have different interests' levels in music and attitudes about school in general. When assessing students a teacher should always keep in mind that all students are at different playing levels and most of the time music is just an enjoyable way for them to pass the time.

Assessment is a necessity when it comes to a classroom. Of the five types of assessment the most valuable to a teacher is the authentic assessment. A music educator can use it to witness how a student is applying the knowledge to what they are doing. Giving them a test to get this kind of assessment is only showing the teacher that the student knows the information at the time. It doesn't mean that the student knows how to apply it as well as understand what the information means. However, formal assessment

is a good way to determine whether a certain topic or subject needs to be revisited if the class, as a whole, had difficulty. Assessment is the only real way to show that a student is learning something to the outside world. A teacher might see changes and improvements in a classroom but if they don't give some hard evidence for it no one is going to take it seriously. Concerts and festivals for the students is a good way to make the students' accomplishments observable to family, friends, and local supporters.

As you can see Music should be in everybody's life. No one should have to be limited to what they are taught or what they can learn. Music in schools is important to help bring this opportunity to students. Not just anyone can teach music so schools have to be able to find a teacher that is able to relate to the students and bring enjoyment to them through the music. Over all students should be taught about how important the arts are to their life and how they will be the future of music education.