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Educational Philosophy

I've been attracted to the teaching profession since my high school years when my director had pushed me to be the best musician he believed I could be. My first day in wind ensemble, the director gave us a lecture about his expectation of each one of his students. We were expected to be playing at the levels of the seniors and to match up to the type of tone they could produce. Requirements included taking lessons, competing in festivals, and trying out for auditioned ensembles. Without that push, I would not be the musician I am today, nor would I be inspired to be a great teacher like him. Little did I know that this would be a routine that I would want to be doing for my life. Music is such an inspiration that I believe is necessary to share with all students.

Not only would my students be learning basic music theory skills, how to play in solos or ensembles, but they would also learn life skills such as responsibility, team work, and time management. I hope that my students will have an enjoyable time performing music and working with each other to gain these skills without truly knowing that they are growing. Music will go a long way with students regardless to whether they keep playing. They can start to listen to different genres with new appreciation and satisfaction. The text from the pieces may take their breath away, or the text might bring joy and laughter. One may be able to take the history of a piece and incorporate it into another class for an essay. Music classes are in general more than just singing, playing, and/or performing. Through participation in music, students are taken to another place outside of a normal school schedule. They find a new family outside of their homes and regular general classes.

Music classes are easily capable of being taught in favor of visual, audio, or kinetic methods. Some students prefer to see things written out, while others would rather hear a piece to understand a rhythm that seems tricky. As an educator, I take in consideration all the different strategies that are needed to successfully inform students with varieties of individual needs. Along with different strategies, patience must be kept when a student is struggling to learn lessons with different strategies.

In my classroom, I will have procedures and rules for students to follow posted around the classroom. Student's will be able to follow the procedures with knowing the consequences of not following them from day one. My students will receive individual time for help on their work and when working with my students, they will receive positive feedback on their work and receive constructive criticism in where they can improve. I will push my students to achieve in whatever they do.

Music educators must set their lesson plans up different than the average math, science, or English teacher. Assessments to be used in the music education field would be various playing tests on tunes that the class would be working on. Along with those assessments, students would also have to be tested on smaller sections showing technical skills to know where each student's strengths and weaknesses are. My students will have an opportunity to weigh in on how they would like to take tests to adjust for the different learning styles. Comments, questions, or concerns may be brought up in class or privately in an email so that each student is aware that their opinions are valuable. I will ensure that my class will know that even though they feel pressured to be their best self, they can only do what they put in and not expect any more than that.