

Music Philosophy

As a music teacher, I always try to look back at the years I was a music student myself to find out how much music affected my education. From the very first music classes I had taken, I connected with music so much that I committed to my Orff classes for one year at the age of five and a year later I saw myself taking piano lessons. Playing piano in those years helped me not only at school but it also was useful for my day-to-day life skills. I had better coordination than anybody in our house, I could multitask, analyze, and think in a broader way than before. It also helped in being a self-disciplined and motivated person. Now as a teacher it is important for me to see my students connect and enjoy music as much as I did. In my belief music is a tool that improves concentration, active listening, and self-discipline. It also adds a variety of colors in a person's palette in life when they need more devices of expression. I want to become an elementary music teacher to give that gift to my students from a young age.

My approach to music is helping students to form a bond with music that can be used for the rest of their lives and hoping that it will not be limited to the years they have me as their teacher. Music was a gift that was given to me as a child. Through music I could express myself, feel the emotions I haven't had before. It opened a new gate to my brain and my soul. Music class to me is where students are allowed to be themselves in their most creative way. I believe in making a strong foundation for students to be able to build their musical knowledge as they grow and to be able to use this device as a form of expression. Music education is important to be taught at schools because it enhances a set of skills that might not be actively used in other classes. It also

can release the stress and pressure from the normal school curriculum due to the nature of the subject.

Music is a creative process, students are given abstract concepts such as sound, rhythm, harmony, and form to make and understand music. It is almost like putting together pieces of a puzzle except the pieces are not necessarily tangible, most of the process happens in the brain before even showing up on any instrument. Music also can help with self-esteem and confidence. To sing, play or perform in front of classmates and audience in case of performances, it can create a sense of self-fulfillment that can cause higher self-esteem. In my belief any student can benefit from music, some more some less depending on where they are in their learning journey. I am motivated to create a welcoming classroom where we have a self-space to have fun and grow at the same time.

For a teacher to be successful at a teaching job one should remember to be creative and constantly thinking about new ways to explain a concept with the usages of new materials such as textbooks, multimedia devices, updated in the current teaching methods in the U.S and the world. I think a teacher should be a long-term learner during their teaching career to keep themselves updated and fresh from what is being published. I also think a teacher needs to attend conferences, work on their networking in their area and the country. Networking and marketing could be used as a great tool to expand the music curriculum and performance opportunities for the school. Since I started my musical-learning path with Orff and really enjoyed it, I do like the music and play approach in the elementary age group. I think the Orff method by itself might be limited for transferring all the music knowledge kids might need before middle school, so I would combine different

methods in the need of the students. I would also make sure to use a diverse set of music taste in circle times or the times we are working more on our kinesthetic skills, so students not only learn how to move their body to the sound and beat but also learn about different cultures, sounds and a wider range of musical awareness. I am hoping this combination would be a balanced mix of musical activities to help my students as they go forward in their musical journey.