

Philosophy of Music Education

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In today's world, ugliness surrounds us. Music is a way to escape from the chaos going on elsewhere and bring peace to our lives. One piece of music can draw one person in but turn another away. It gives everyone a unique and personal experience. This is the beauty of music.

The goal of music education should be to give everyone an appreciation for music. I believe everyone should have the chance to learn what music is and how it is made to promote a sincere appreciation for music that students can carry with them throughout their lives. I want to provide my students the building blocks to success rather than being the wrecking ball to their self-esteem.

I believe that music education should also teach students life skills. Music is a way for students to learn how to work together. When playing in an ensemble, students learn to listen and depend on each other. If the ensemble members do not take responsibility of their parts, then the ensemble may not be able to perform. This is especially true in small ensembles where there is likely just one person per part. Everyone can tell if one student does not know his or her part. Students must be responsible and take ownership of their own parts to succeed.

Within teaching, there is no "one size fits all" method. Every student learns differently and at a different pace. My job as a music teacher is to meet the needs of all the students through differentiating instruction and understanding students' struggles and successes. I want my students to feel safe and respected in my classroom. To that end, I hope to build a relationship with my students that radiates trust, respect, and safety. It is my goal to instill in my students' confidence through trusting and believing in them. In turn, I hope they will grow to respect and trust me.

I believe that as a teacher I have a responsibility to my students to be fair and consistent throughout the year. As Ramona Wis says in her book "The Conductor as Leader," our values

should stay the same on and off the podium and our deeds must match up with our words (pg. 145). Students thrive on consistency. Sometimes a consistent teacher is the most consistency that students have in their lives.

My classroom will be a place where my students look forward to coming to class. Ramona Wis says that when we are excited about something, we are more likely to be self-disciplined (pg. 128). As teachers, we want our students to be self-disciplined and intrinsically motivated. If the students are excited to go to music, then they are likely to try harder in class.

Reference

Wis, R. M. (2007). *The Conductor as Leader*. Chicago, IL: GIA Publications.