

Taylor Pfaff

Dr. Paise

MUSE 207 - 001

22 May 2021

My Music Education Philosophy

In order for learning to take place inside my classroom, comfortability and safety comes first in all aspects of life. Maslow's hierarchy of needs proves that first to be successful, we must have our basic needs met which includes physiological and safety needs. I believe that the importance of building a strong, inviting, and encouraging environment is essential to my teaching. In my own classroom, I will lay the foundation of encouragement and lovingness where mistakes can take place and forgiveness follows suit. My classroom is a place to bring those mistakes and recognize what happened and what is the lesson that can be learned behind the mistake. Which in turn, forgiveness takes its place. Many mistakes are bound to happen in music classrooms. Instruments may break or egos may overcome in a situation with peers where words may be said. As these situations arise, previously providing an encouraging and positive environment will guide students to learn and prepare them for their futures.

Each day everyone learns something new, whether it takes place inside a classroom or not. As teachers, our responsibility to supply great educational experiences for students and inhabit great learning skills is essential to our jobs. As Philosopher John Dewey states, teachers should not just teach but rather, be a facilitator of learning. I believe as an educator, my job is to give students the information and help, guide, and watch as learning takes place. My own teaching through the use of activities and engaging classroom discussions will allow my students

to retain and remember what they have learned. With this, it is my responsibility as a music educator to observe, care, and help each student on their own musical journey.

As a music educator, I believe in the philosophy of John Dewey which is learning by doing. It is one thing to lecture and talk to students about the content, but the best way that they will actively learn and retain the information is by doing. In my classroom, I strive to continually set forth many activities to keep students engaged and for the brain to continuously be turning to understand the task at hand. As well as learning by doing, I believe in a self-advocating classroom where students have a say in their own education. This grants students the opportunity to not only stay engaged but also to learn individuality, independence, and decision-making. Teachers are like gardeners. We plant the seeds and give the necessary needs and nutrients the flowers need to grow into high-functioning members of society.

My job as a music educator is to teach all students including special needs. It is my responsibility to know as much as I can about my students and in order to do so, I strive to find out about IEPs as well as attend meetings. In my classroom, I will ensure that I provide accommodations to provide the best support for all my students but also not exclude those with special needs.

I believe that people can relate personal experiences to musical pieces which helps to connect with a piece. Being able to feel a piece because of how you can relate it to a piece of your life transforms everything about the piece from the learning process to the performance. I will strive to guide students to do this in my classroom where they will learn how to reflect on their life as well as deal with their emotions and not feel uncomfortable or ashamed of them.

As Philosopher Plato has said in the Allegory of the Cave, It is not about letting the blind eye see, but turning the soul around. A large goal of mine as an educator is to impact my

students' lives in a way that helps shape them into the person they will become. Many of my previous and current educators play a huge role in the woman I have become today. As a teacher, I will seek to be the positive role model that my students look up to and reflect on as a part of their life where they not only let their eyes see and learn, but turned their soul around by how they grew as an individual.