

Education should be relevant and accessible to everyone. I most highly value education's

means and abilities to assist us, as humans, in quenching our thirst for knowledge and self-discovery. Without education, human curiosity and drive to discovery would cease to be quenched. This would mean that technology never advances: there would be no iPhone 10, no new forms of transportation or communication, nor a cure for cancer. It is education which allows people to make the cognitive advances to discover and create these things to advance our society and the world. Education may be done in a formal or informal setting. Formal education is important because it provides structured and scaffolded information for students from professional, trained sources: teachers. The problem with informal education, then, is the method of transfer of information. Many informal sources can provide incorrect or unreliable information, causing those who access it to learn the wrong information. In light of this, formal education is not only helpful but necessary so that we may increase the overall intelligence of the population. Since our world is ever-changing so, too, should our educational system be, in order for it to remain relevant. Thus, I believe that the curriculum in education must constantly be changing to continue to be relevant and fit within our society.

In the educational system, music is a vital outlet for students, whether they have behavioral

issues or not. In many cases, music can be therapeutic to students, teachers, and listeners alike. In music, people express ideas and emotions that they cannot express in language alone. This is because music appeals to the senses, but belongs to the realm of the unseen. We cannot see music, but it can still make us feel things and think things. Thus, in order to understand the range and depth of the human imagination, one must have knowledge of the arts. Music works the brain similarly to learning a new language while also strongly tapping into

our emotions. It is this aspect of it which makes it such a strong aspect of the human experience, and leads to music-making as a fulfilling and rewarding experience for all. As such, I feel that it is important to teach this as a means of expression, self-discovery, and safe exploration so that students may feel comfortable and free enough to try new things and express themselves however they may need to, and do so without being judged. For all of these reasons, music is a critical part of teaching the whole child. It allows us to access a deeper part of ourselves while allowing us to create a foundation of knowledge that will make us better learners, citizens, and people.

With music as such a unique pathway to self-discovery, I believe that music is - and should be - for everyone, regardless of race or gender or socioeconomic status; everyone should have access to a high quality music education. Everyone has an aptitude for music; it is simply an instilled sense of passion for that aptitude that will determine if they will be any good at their instrument of choice or not. In my music class, we will focus on active experiences in making music that keep students engaged. It is my hope that this level of engaged musicking will serve to instill that passion for music in my students by allowing their personal creativity and expression to shine through. My ultimate goal as a music teacher is to facilitate student learning and guide students to high levels of achievement, so that my students may one day serve as passionate advocates of music. I will do this by passionately advocating for music myself, so that I may act as a model for my students. I will hold these same high standards for all of my students to reflect the aptitude they all have, and will push them to achieve and excel in the area they show the most passion and promise.

As a music teacher, it is my duty and my responsibility to utilize effective musical pedagogy to positively affect student learning in the classroom, while allowing them plenty of

room for self-discovery. The most effective method of teaching music, I believe, is through facilitation; I will provide students with enough structure to guide them to success while allowing enough freedom so as not to stifle their creativity. It is my professional responsibility to care for these students while they are under my supervision and to be their personal advocate at any time that I can. Much the same as every student should have access to a musical education, every student should also have a voice and an advocate for that voice to be heard loud and clear. Every student is unique and uniquely gifted, and I will treat them as such in my classroom.