

Music Education Philosophy

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The core principles behind my philosophy are inclusivity, meaningfulness, and love. I aim to make music inclusive to all. Everyone should be able to experience music, no matter their abilities, income, social standing, or age. Ensuring that there is meaning behind my teaching is also a core focus of my philosophy. From constructing lessons to creating personal relationships with my students, it should all have meaning in one way or another. The relationships we create between student and teacher must be meaningful and intentional in order for them to last a lifetime. As a music teacher, regardless of who or where I teach, love is at the center of everything. A goal of mine is to remember that I teach people, not music. I will not be afraid to say “I love you” to my classes. After all, the love that I have for them may be the strongest love that they currently feel in their lives.

I feel that music should be enjoyable. We tend to place standards and expectations for music that can be unrealistic and discouraging. I plan to encourage musicianship by pushing my students outside of their comfort zones, but not to the extent in which they dread music. I aim for my students to feel free to express music in the way that is enjoyable to them, and to never truly dread the act of making music. I will do this by informing them that it is okay to be unsure or to make mistakes. They will not be afraid to make mistakes, and instead will know that making mistakes can be the best form of learning. Finally, the best way to instill any principle is to lead by example. If I am not enjoying music, or enjoying guiding my students through music making, how can I expect them to do the same? If I do not show love and compassion toward my students and their needs, musical or not, I cannot expect them to also love music, each other, and most importantly, themselves.