

Philosophy of Education Statement

By: Elizabeth Haaland

Being an educator, specifically a teacher, to me, means that the students and their needs are put first. With this being said, I believe that every child deserves a well-rounded education. Music education is unrecognized, particularly in today's world, but provides so much to a child's learning experience. I believe that teaching music in fun and approachable ways is a great way to ensure that they have the best possible education experience. Some practices that I can use to help round out my classroom is to ensure that students get time in small groups during class, help students individually when they need it, and integrate other subjects into my classes.

A lot of ensembles, especially school based ones, don't schedule out time in class for student to practice within their own sections without the rest of band. These sectionals are extremely helpful for students to get to know one another, and to learn how to play within their own section. This allows for closer knit groups within the ensemble that are better at knowing how to adjust their playing to fit in with the rest of their section, and in the band. The adaptability and people skills taught using sectionals can be very useful in a student's future, especially as they move into working more in groups and getting jobs.

While this group work is helpful, a lot of students need one on one help as well. Whether it be with their musicality or even with more personal issues, I can be open to listening and helping with what problems they bring. This approachability will teach my students that it's okay to ask for help when you need it, a skill which many young people don't learn until it is too late. It may also teach them to be more open to helping others when they are called upon, as most children learn by example.

Contrary to popular belief, music is not an island in the world of education. In reality, music is a language, and similar to any other language, students have to learn by reading, writing, speaking, and listening to it. I can help them use skills they learn in their language classes in this way. Music also has close ties to math, and practicing music can help students keep up with their math skills, particularly with fractional counting. They can learn some of these skills from my classroom, helping them get an idea of how to synthesis what they know in a cohesive manner.

With all of that being said, I ultimately believe that it is very important to be there for the students when they need help, in any sort of way that they may need. Sectional work is also a very important aspect for being involved in any sort of ensemble. Integrating other subjects into my teaching is also another very important facet to my teaching.