

As a teacher, I hope for my students to receive the best possible education in order to be the best students they can be. All students should have the ability to try different things and find out what they like and what works for them. In the music classroom, students should be able to try different things to find what they like, while still being exposed to different aspects of music. I want my students to be able to share their talents with anyone and everyone. I also feel as though in the middle and high school setting, students are at the point in their life where it is difficult to know what they like and what they don't. Providing them with the most opportunities to expand their horizons is one of the best things for them. I want to provide them with a basis of ear training, theory, music history, as well as an opportunity for them to find an instrument, or instruments, that they want to continue learning and work towards perfecting that instrument to the best of their ability.

In general, I want my students to have as much of an individualized and specific education they can receive. Paul Lehman wrote "the best gift we can give our students is an education that is student-centered."ⁱ I fully support this idea. Individualized instruction is one of the best ways to be able to teach students because every student is different and learns in different ways. Even though it may not be easy, I feel as though it is such a valuable part of the student's education to show them that I care about them as they are learning. There are too many students who don't have the optimal family dynamic at home. Through their learning, I want my students to know I am their teacher, but that I am also there to support them, believe in them, and care about them in whatever they do, in and out of the classroom.

In addition, I want to be able to provide my students with the skills and knowledge so they can take what they learned after they leave the classroom and continue with their learning. This is achieved by meeting my students where they are and providing each student to grow at

the level which is best for them. It is important to provide the student multiple ways to grow upon the fundamental skills they already know, and to foster those skills so they transfer out of the classroom into their lives to continue their learning independently through the skills which they build upon in the classroom.

I also want to provide my students with an atmosphere where they aren't afraid to fail and make mistakes. I barely knew anything about music until arriving to college. From that I learned that one of my biggest things I have taken away so far is that it is okay to fail and make mistakes because I only grow from them. My students should also know that, the only way they can begin to thrive is by putting themselves in situations where they may fail and may make mistakes, but that doesn't always mean that they are wrong. It just means they may need a different approach that can get them to the same goal. I also want them to know that I am there for them and for them to know that. Dave Burgess writes in his book *Teach Like A Pirate*, that the "ability to completely give yourself up to the moment and fully "be" with your students is an awesome and unmistakably powerful technique.ⁱⁱ" I want my students to see that I am there solely for the purpose of teaching them all that I know and that am immersing myself in that. I want to be able to walk into my classroom and not worry about anything which may be bothering me outside the classroom. I want to devote my time in the classroom to the students and I want them to be able to see the passion which I have for teaching them. I want my students to enjoy what they are doing; I want them to come into class excited to learn and be able to give their all and to not be afraid of what will happen once they do.

Citations

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- ⁱ Lehman, Paul R. “Philosophy of Music Education.” *Music Education Journal*, vol. 88, no. 5, Mar. 2002, www.k-state.edu/musiceducation/eportfolio/archived/jhuey/Jessica_Huey/Philosophy_of_Music_Education.html.
- ⁱⁱ “Teach like a Pirate: Increase Student Engagement, Boost Your Creativity, and Transform Your Life as an Educator.” *Teach like a Pirate: Increase Student Engagement, Boost Your Creativity, and Transform Your Life as an Educator*, by Dave Burgess, Dave Burgess Consulting, Inc., 2018, pp. 14–14.