

My teaching philosophy is I will strive to create an intentionally welcoming and consistent environment that maximizes student learning and supports love, logic, and human flourishing.

Getting a combined minor in philosophy and theology has enriched my outlook on life by applying basic principles of morality to any subject. Not only do I feel more confident in my understanding of what is right and wrong, but I feel like I have more of an understanding of human happiness and steps towards achieving such a state of being. There will never be a perfect path towards it, but there are ways to get rid of some of the rocks and branches, making the journey a little smoother. Music is one way to sweep some of life's debris away.

Music should be a challenge, but never just a 'chore'. When choosing music, I want to pick fun and/or challenging things to play for my students. It is important for musicians to have background in many styles and genres, even if some seem boring. Following other examples I have seen, doing pop concerts to incorporate music that the students love will help hold their interest and give them something to look forward to after doing a concert with complicated baroque and classical music in it. While wanting them to really understand the foundation of music, one must not forget to have a little fun. After all, art is one of the few subjects with such flexibility to its set rules, that its many forms can be the ultimate expression of a person's soul.

I also heavily believe in having one-on-one time with students who want to better themselves as musicians. One of my goals is to continue teaching paid private lessons outside of school hours and office hours; at the very least, I have come to realize how wonderful my private lessons have been for a better understanding on how individual students learn and how I can maximize learning in a larger classroom environment. Individualized lessons also creates more space for contest and honor ensemble preparation. Some of my students will be hungry for more than just normal band rehearsal; encouraging them to take a step further and embrace their interests can help them latch onto something as simple as a fun experience to something that can become a large part of a person's identity. My own career choice sprouted through musical competitions and experiences.

For a more personal take on the importance of music, I have always found it to be an enhancement for almost every emotion and a huge source of entertainment. I know that during some of the most impressionable years of their existence, many children and adolescents will be experiencing wild changes in their emotional states and will be searching for a source of entertainment. Music is a healthy, therapeutic source for coping, enjoyment, and learning; my own passion is a driving force behind why I want to show students how enriching music is.

These are just a few examples of how I would run my music program and assist my students in not only succeeding in the fine arts, but finding enjoyment in them as well. Music enriches the lives of many people, and though it may not be a key factor to every job in the workforce, it is something that should not be overlooked entirely, especially during the most influential years of a person's life.