Teaching Philosophy

I believe that all children should have an opportunity to experience music within the national education system. The emotional and physical experiences that interacting with music, whether performing or merely listening, provides is unable to be produced by other experiences outside of music. Music allows children to express themselves and have the chance to be great at or truly enjoy doing a specific activity. Music should be enjoyed, as an opportunity to temporarily escape from the harsh realities of life that people often are forced to experience. The use of music in our society is constantly present. Whether it is in a waiting room or elevator, background music or radio, or television and movies; music is used so frequently that children deserve to understand and appreciate the importance of music in our society as Americans.

Music is not only a subject that stands alone, but it incorporates many other subjects and intelligences. Music is science. It is specific and demands exact acoustics. The conductor’s score is a chart which indicates frequencies, intensities, volume, changes, melody, and harmony all at once and with an exact control of time. Music incorporates mathematics with its rhythms based on the subdivisions of time into fractions which need to be done instantaneously, not worked out on paper. Music incorporates multiple foreign languages. Many musical terms are in Italian, German or French; and the notation itself is a highly developed type of shorthand that uses symbols to represent ideas. Music is said to be a universal language known to mankind because it is used all over the world. There is not a known culture that does not use music in some way. Also, music often reflects the history within its developing country, therefore, when children learn music they are also learning about cultural history. Music is physically demanding, requiring coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, cheek, facial muscles and extraordinary control of the diaphragm, back, stomach, and chest muscles which respond instantly to the sound the ear hears and the mind interprets. Performing music also encourages the development of fine motor skills, improving hand and eye coordination between reading music and producing music. Music is artistic, allowing people to create and express emotion and individuality. Music allows people to be human; teaches how to recognize beauty, and expresses emotion. Other educational areas such as math and science cannot duplicate humanism, feeling, and emotions. Reading and interpreting music also expands problem solving skills and initiates a higher order of thinking because there must be a balance between knowing and doing when a musician recreates music from a piece of notated paper.

As a child learns how to read music and to play an instrument, they are also developing a strong work ethic, organizational skills and diligence by setting goals and incorporating practice time. Learning and creating music requires team skills. A person must work with others in groups of various sizes and diversities in order to achieve a common goal. Achievement at the group level also offers individual success which in turn provides confidence and improved self-esteem. Creating music is a lifelong activity that can be enjoyed with others, offering a better quality of life.

Ultimately, teaching music is about the kids and preparing them for the future.