

My Own Philosophy on Education

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What makes people different from any other living creatures? Education does. Education helps people fit for their daily duties and tasks. Through education people achieve their desires. Cognitive and mental growth is what people obtain from education. It is not a momentum, but a process. Education is a life-long process. It includes intentional teaching and faithful learning - right from wrong, new from old, and good from evil.

I believe that education is more like nurture and development. It is a quest for cognitive development and mental growth. Education builds things up and tears them down. It aims at happiness of all, not only for teachers but for learners. My own philosophy on education has to do with the power and the role of education that affects human development.

Education helps people obtain knowledge. It is more than just the accumulation of knowledge. It includes learning of wisdom, experience, tradition, and culture. It doesn't necessarily bring good things. It causes people to be trained to harm others. Education takes



place from interaction among the people, not only between teachers and students, but also among the peers. Some people learn things directly from nature or other people. Others do from books and media. Through observation, study, or reaction, people learn. Through education people hands things over from one generation to the next.

Without educator or teacher, we cannot talk about education. I see the primary role of teachers as one that discovers the potentials of students and maximize them. For me a good teacher is a mentor or coach, rather than a disciplinarian or trainer. A teacher who never experienced the struggles of many students cannot help the students overcome them. An instructor cannot bring the student to the place where he or she never experienced. There have been a couple of dozens of teachers in my life. I have only one or two mentors and coaches, whose teaching has mightily impact on today's who I am.

Education is too broad to define in a simple way. It is difficult to grasp without stressing the content areas. There are many content areas in education. I consider music as the most fundamental content area for education, not simply because I cherish it, but because I could not get away from it. Music has been with me. Personally music helped me learn things I needed. Before I started pre-school I encountered music. From lullaby to folk songs, hymns, and anthems, music has been always with me. Piano lesson was a significant part of early days of my life as early as the age of 5. Music was a favorite class at school. I enjoyed church music. I sing all the time. Once I had left music for my first career in the medical area for about a decade. But I return to music.

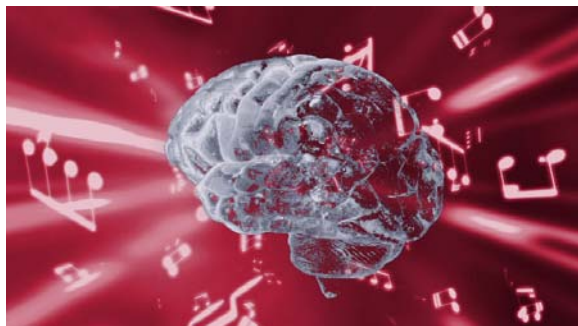
Music unites people. It separates people one from the other. It moves the minds of people. It hardens them. It stirs things up. It calms them down. Music brings comfort and healing. It interrupts. Music is used for homage as well as for judgment. Music helps people learn something new, express their emotions, and convey meanings. Music has played a significant role in the responses of human beings to one another and peer creatures in universe. It is like a common language for humanity. No interpretation is needed.



For me, music includes all of the acoustic vibration that exists. Whether it is harmonious or interrupting, music is everything I feel. Musical is everything! Music is all present. It is everywhere. It goes beyond personal, local, regional and national boundary. People from the east have unique music. So does those of the west. Throughout history, music has been a significant media that people would present “who they are” as well as “what they do. A particular pattern of music identifies a particular group of people living in a particular culture: baroque, classical, romantic, orchestral, jazz, popular, rock n roll, hip-hop, and so forth. From the sounds or noises to melodies with a particular pattern or simple and complex combination of motif and music scales, music provides people with a fundamental way of communication and expression of their thoughts.

As a music teacher, I love to address the fact that people learn things through music. Listening to music through ears may be one way to learn; performing directly music might be the other way. Performing music requires a constant and intentional effort for learning.

Today, people have an easy access to music or musical resources, including performing arts, reviews on music, and many online resources. Young people live with music and its multi-sensory media available in online resources. Over the last couple of years I learned about today’s young folks heavily dependent on the digital resources.



Music contributes to intellectual and brain development of the young people. It enhances social skills and team works. Daily practice for music even brings forth physical exercise through their actual body practice. Expression skills and stage performance are what the students learn from music. Personal management skills are also developed through time arrangement. Music is a good subject for problem solving skill.

For sound education, I lift up classroom management as the most important component. It is a preliminary effort of teachers to create a sound teaching environment. Classroom management includes organizing classroom with teaching materials and facilities, choosing rules

and procedures, managing student work, planning and conducting instructions, managing cooperative learning groups, maintaining appropriate student behavior, communication skills, and equipping special needs for the handicapped.

I believe that teachers should pay attention carefully to create classroom management that meets the compelling objectives for education. Encouraging, motivating, fun, and welcoming for all learners is my priority to create a classroom environment. Equal education is crucial for a successful teaching. Each individual student has different music level. Learning about gift level of each student through audition or prior knowledge, I will organize multiple learning groups in a way to honor one another. Advanced students might teach other peers. Based on performance level, students can grade up during the academic year.



Classroom management doesn't simply include facilities for education, but accessibility of teachers. For an effective classroom management, I will set aside my time with the students with special need or independent study. Space for individual tutorship will be created. Rules and procedures will be kept in a visible area. Constructive assertiveness for maintaining appropriate students' behavior will be reminded all the time. Learning about students becoming more diverse culturally, financially and linguistically, I will create a mutual teaching relationship with parents and teachers of different content area. I will adopt differentiated instructional method to meet the needs of every student.

There is limit in creating a music classroom, because of the arrangement of the seat with a particular group of instrument or voices (soprano, alto, tenor, and bass). As classroom seating chart shows, my classroom will be equipped with bookshelf, seating center, teacher's podium, file cabinet, display case, instrument racks, and media center, along with personal computer with Wi-Fi access and any other docking stations with handheld devices.

The use of the digital device or technology is a good tool for an effective teaching, which needs to be considered for classroom management piece. It enhances not only easy accesses to the educational materials, but also motivates young students. I will encourage every student to learn how to take advantage of the variety of media, available everywhere in their environment, especially through online resources. Watching performance, engaging in global and local music events, or self-study will give a great opportunity for their academic achievement as well as fulfillment of their rich lives.

Successful education depends on literacy skills. In a particular content area other than reading and comprehension, literacy skills can be understood as the secondary components even in music education. Without literacy mastery, the students face hardship in music education, especially for the basic concept of music and musical symbols. The literacy instruction will help student understand music history, the historical background of a particular music, the context of the musicians. For enhancement of literacy proficiency for music education, I will adopt the

variety of literacy instructions, such as reading assignment on music history or musicians, review of music articles, or writing journals on performance or using digital media. Students will appreciate what the literacy mastery brings to their successful accomplishment in music education.



Finally, assessment needs to be considered as another significant component for successful teaching. Grading, monitoring, feedback, and follow-up are the important elements for assessment. I will not solely dependent on my own assessment, but one from peers or the other from the students themselves. Keeping a daily performance journal with parent's supervision will allow students to review what they have learned beyond classroom. I will adopt diverse grading system to measure the learning capacity of students.

In closing, I would like to reiterate education as a life-long commitment for nurture and human development. I believe that music is a great entry point for successful education. With a constant reminder of the significance of literacy skills, I will not stop working for encouraging and motivating students. At the same time, I will continue to develop my own instruction strategies to fit for any teaching opportunity. Paying attention to technology and digital resources would be an area that I have to remind myself all the time. Equipping myself to be relevant in the rapidly changing context of the students, I will face any challenges from teaching environment.