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Teaching Credo

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“Tell me and I forget; show me and I remember; involve me and I understand – Author Unknown”. In the last 18 years, I have experienced many different teachers who all have had very different teaching techniques. Some were there only for the paycheck while others were truly inspiring, helping to involve our way of being with our surroundings. It was because of these good and bad teachers that I decided to follow the teaching career; more specifically, a music teacher. It also helped me to know which teaching philosophies I want to follow and to incorporate into my music classroom.

The idea of becoming a teacher has always been in my head, starting in grade school. However, I truly decided that teaching was the career for me during my senior year. My class, along with the grades below me, was full of high potential students in all areas. However, being a part of a small school limited our opportunities. Our fine arts program has always lacked experience and capability, which was a downfall for me. During my senior year the school was unable to find a choir teacher, so they relied on the band director who was not interested in the job what so ever! He only did what he had to do and nothing else. I felt like it was poor teaching skills and a let down for his students. He allowed me to step up some days and teach the class. I tried to make it fun and knowledgeable for my classmates and they seemed to listen to me. Being able to teach my class enhanced my interest of teaching music as a career. Slowly throughout the year I realized music had always been a passion of mine, and I never wanted that passion to die.

All teachers have different styles and methods of teaching. One characteristic, which I always admired and enjoyed, is when the teacher focuses more on the students and ties in the lesson plans with activities. This philosophy of teaching is called Progressivism. Some of my teachers made their teaching methods very structured and boring; having dull lesson plans straight out of the book. I found this very discouraging, yet it helped in my decision of becoming a teacher. I believe my strongest

teaching method will be Progressivism. Since progressive learning focuses on the child, I think as a teacher I would focus on what the child wants instead of just focusing on what they should be learning. Many people are self-conscious about singing, dancing, or other music related activity. However, I would try to encourage everyone to just have fun and enjoy themselves. I would try to incorporate certain activities where everyone felt at ease and could say they learned something when they left the classroom. When I had a teacher who used monotonous methods and was not adventurous, I would tell myself that I could one day be an energetic, fun teacher who helped the children learn in an amusing manner yet challenged them to their highest potential. Showing the youth that there is a fun and more valuable way to learn will enhance their willingness to learn and explore.

The second philosophy I will install while teaching is Existentialism. Jean Paul Sartre, a French philosopher, said that "people are born, and each person must define him- or herself through choices in life" (118). I personally agree with this statement. I believe children should learn from their experiences. With each experience they learn life lessons, some being bad, but I know from my own experiences that sometimes there is good that comes out of bad decisions. I want to help my students strive to be the best they can be. It is up to each individual person to decide who they want to be in life. It is my job to help them find the meaning of life through experiences and to encourage them to strive for their goals. I will use my own acquired life lessons as examples and open new opportunities for them to use in the future. I want to release new ideas and activities that they may not otherwise get to be a part of or experience in their life.

## Bibliography

<http://groups.northwestern.edu/mlc/upbeat/quotes.htm>