

Kaitlin Hughes

EDUC 352

Prof. Schilling

October 14, 2009

Music in the Diverse Classroom

Plato once said, "I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for in the patterns of music and all the arts are the keys of learning." I believe music is one of the most important subjects and most needed in a person's life. Music has always been my escape from strenuous classes and anything sad or stressful. It has taught me a lot about the music we hear on the radio or at church. Most importantly I learned how to break down music into parts, analyze it, and evaluate it, which I have learned to adapt to many other aspects in my life. The amazing thing about music is that it can be easy or complex, meaning that anyone can understand the basics and have fun listening or singing a simple song. Music can easily be adapted to fit many needs; however, more experienced students may want to move at a faster rate but even in that case, it can be met and resolved.

Music is very repetitive information, learning one thing and consistently seeing it again. One of the strategies for your special students is to watch the pace you are teaching. A class may be able to easily follow along with a song and clap out a steady rhythm but if you add on a new element to watch or actively do, you may be moving too fast for some students. Be aware of your pace and keep one eye open to students who are struggling with a new lesson. Learn a new song or rhythm in one step fragments at a time; however, do not drag behind causing other students to become bored. This will lose their attention and quite possibly result in behavioral problems.

Another strategy music teachers have to face is having a wide variety of experienced and inexperienced students in one classroom. One cure is to have the highly experienced students rehearse with an upper-grade chorus or band. You could also form a highly qualified musical group for those who would like to audition and be a part. Coming from an extremely small school, our choir department lacked experience, professionalism, and even a choir teacher. So we were taught by the band teacher who was unsure as to what to do with us in the classroom. Some of us had very good voices, where as others had no clue how to find a pitch. Nonetheless, he kept us all in one classroom and we learned from each other. It was unfortunate though that the more experienced students were not able to further their learning; rather, they were held at a lower level of education which they already obtained.

One more strategy student's face in music is memorization. There are many things needing memorized in music including the lines, notes, vocabulary, words, rhythms, and so on. A way to solve this is to use mnemonics, flash cards, repetition as a group and with partners, and lots of practice. There are many ways you can help your students to memorize key terms and to understand and remember the basics but it is mostly repeating the material over and over and applying their previous knowledge to what they will learn. Still to this day, I have trouble remembering particular words and phrases or the thought process for a problem which is why it is so helpful to have various memory tricks on hand which will also be very helpful in a classroom.

As previously stated, I grew up in a small town, attending a small school where diversity was very rare. Half of me is looking forward to something new and exciting when I teach. I hope to grow individually in my teaching and as a person dealing with diversity and new situations in classrooms. The other half of me is scared and worried that I will not adapt well.

Fortunately, being scared will not affect my eagerness to give 110% at all times. I feel like children need a good education and a fun way to learn more than ever and I want to be able to teach them in that way. I know through my experiences I will learn to quickly adapt my lessons to my students and have a blast doing it!

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What will this look like in your choir room?

excellent way to begin

(cite your source)

excellent point

Kaitlin - watch switching pronouns

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What will you do when you teach?

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Thanks for honest reflection

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awesome!

Kaitlin - Good reflection - Do, however, make sure you talk about how you will use the strategies in your classroom - not just how you learned as a student. Apply strategies to your own class

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