|  |
| --- |
|  |
| Philosophy of Music Education |
| Northern State University |
|  |
| **McKenzie Betting** |
| **1/19/2014** |

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Philosophy of Music Education

 I am often asked, “What is your favorite type of music?” Some may say hip-hop, while another may say country or classical. Personally, when I am asked this question I can never answer that with one simple answer. Because music seems to be running through my blood, I like all forms of music. No one has ever asked me why, but as I have gone through college, I have asked myself that question. The reason that I don’t dislike or like any type of music more than any other is because music is part of who I am. It is an art form that I have learned to love passionately. I have been committed to music my whole life, and I have come to the conclusion, I want to become a music teacher because I want to share why I love music so much. In my philosophy, my views as to why music education is an important part of the creative mind, learning of expression, and it is a way for me to accomplish my goals.

 Music is defined as: vocal or instrumental sound combined in such a way as to produce beauty of form, harmony, and expression of emotion (Merriam Webster Dictionary). In this definition, two words stand out—beauty and emotion. Music is an art form that has its own definition of beauty. A creative mind can produce so much beauty. I sit down and listen to a wide range of genres and think to myself, “This music is beautiful, wonderful, and amazing. It’s so creative.” This creativity flows from a creative mind; it expresses emotions without the use of words. When I compose music, I want to be able to share what I am feeling. I don’t want the lyrics to be the main source of emotion because the music behind the lyrics is what brings the full emotion together. Music is its own language that people from every corner of the world understands. I believe that students should have an opportunity to learn more about themselves—become their own individual. I want to give them the opportunity to experience the diversity of cultures, colleagues, and classmates.

 I believe that every student has the ability to express themselves using some sort of musical instrument—including their voice. I believe that every person is born with the aptitude for music and can develop a skill if they put their mind to the task. Music is a universal language which is why I cannot see why someone would think that they do not have the capability to create music. According to Laura Brown, a writer, editor, and professor, learning music benefits language development which is why I believe that anybody can create some sort of music, whether they know it or not (PBS). Being in music education is important to me because I want to share my knowledge of music. I want to teach students the basics and fundamentals of music, but I want most to encourage them to excel, strive for excellence, and express themselves using those fundamentals. Music has been said to help outside of the music classroom—facilitating learning in other subjects, improves spatial-temporal skills, and overall, increases the IQ (PBS). With these benefits, I believe that music is beneficial for teachers and students.

 Accomplishing my goals as a music educator could prove difficult, but with hard work, dedication, and a positive attitude those goals could be accomplished. As a music educator, I want students to have an opportunity to learn more about themselves—become their own individual. I want to give them the opportunity to experience the diversity of cultures, colleagues, and classmates. I also want to give them a chance to experience traveling—theatres, musicals, etc. All of these opportunities require students to learn responsibility because in order to be part of an ensemble, or travel, students must be responsible. My part of these opportunities requires advocating, helping students to fundraise, and to try to encourage the students/parents to get involved.

 In my future classroom, I expect my students to try to the best of their abilities. If they cannot perform a specific task, I will be more than willing to help them improve and learn new techniques. I expect my students to come into the classroom with respect and a positive attitude. In my future classroom, I will have an organized program and will use positive behavior intervention for negative disruptions. I want to inspire students to enjoy music. I do not want to force anything upon them because I have experienced the side effects of forcing something onto students. I believe music is a big part of life because we hear all kinds of music every single day. I want to acknowledge this music and turn it into a fun and enjoyable experience for students.

Works Cited

Brown, Laura Lewis. **The Benefits of Music Education**. [ONLINE] Available at: http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/music-arts/the-benefits-of-music-education/. [Last Accessed 19 January 2013].