

Student Teaching Reflection & Self-Evaluation

During my student teaching experience, I gained quite a bit of knowledge about the students, cooperating teachers, parents, administration, myself and with achieving my goals. After student teaching with my cooperating teachers and the students, I quickly learned that a music teacher wears quite a few “hats”. In the last four months, I have had the opportunity to work with elementary, middle school, and high school students. I have been able to help prepare awards for the students, make costumes for concerts, manage students in and out of the classroom, discipline students accordingly, how to fight for music education, and etc. A music teacher does a lot more than just teach music to students. Throughout the semester, I have grown extremely fond of teaching music and I now feel more comfortable in the teaching field.

Throughout my student teaching experience, there were many things I enjoyed, but there were also things that I was not particularly fond of. Some of the things I enjoyed in my student teaching experience were getting to know the students and my cooperating teachers, learning new methods of teaching, watching students compete at contest, teaching lessons of my own, working with the administration and other faculty members of my cooperating school, and making lifelong mentors through this experience. While working with the elementary students, I had the opportunity to help direct and do costume designing for the spring musical. The elementary students were full of energy and it was hard to get them all together to practice, but we split up parts and the fifth graders were the actors during the production. The other elementary students sang and did actions, but for me it was really neat to see it all come together for such a young group.

While working with the middle school students, I had the opportunity to help direct a musical. The middle school students were quite full of energy and it was a process to get lines and songs memorized, costumes done, rehearsals scheduled, and everyone there to be a part of the show. The middle school students also got it into their heads that they did not want to do it and we had a hard time finding a student to play the main character because no one wanted to take on a big role. However, the students ended up having fun and wanted to do it again. I feel this was a great experience for me because I had the chance to see middle school students put on a musical and play their characters well while having fun.

During student teaching, I had the chance to teach a few instrumental lessons throughout the day. I took on trumpet, trombone, and French horn lessons. Teaching these lessons was great for me because it gave me a chance to get to know the students one on one and to learn more about their instruments and why they chose them. Once January rolled around, the students had to pick out solos to play for contest and I was able to accompany them on the piano. I felt playing the piano for the students that I taught really gave me a self of accomplishment because I helped those students succeed in receiving great scores.

Looking back on my junior field experience, I remember saying that I never wanted to teach high school band or choir. However, after my student teaching experience I have had a change of heart. I had the chance to substitute for high school band and to teach high school choir throughout my semester. While teaching high school choir, I was able to help pick out music for the pops concert and it was neat to introduce macro and micro beats to the students. The students quickly learned that I do not mess around and I expect them to participate in class. After a few times trying to get their attention, I finally received their respect by the end of the year and it felt great.

Before I started my student teaching experience, I had set a number of goals for myself to meet and to make me a better teacher in the process. My first goal was Knowledge of Self as an Individual and I set a goal for myself to speak clearly with my directions and to give my students respect in hopes that I would receive it back from them. During student teaching, I achieved this goal by giving clear directions in elementary, middle school, and high school music classes and by talking to my cooperating teacher about my lesson before teaching it. I also gave students respect and expected to receive it back from them.

My second goal was Knowledge of Content and I set a goal that I would make it a requirement for myself to keep learning during my student teaching experience. In my opinion, books are great to learn from, but I believe the real teaching begins when one has a real life example in front of them. Personally, I believe I learned more, teaching students and being in the classroom with them rather than putting my nose in a book. I achieved the goal to keep learning by watching my students and observing them in the music classroom.

The third goal of mine was Knowledge of the Learner and my goal was to be able to adjust the lessons

accordingly, depending on how the students are responding to the content being taught. During student teaching, I had lessons planned each day, but I quickly learned that I needed to be able to adjust my lessons based on how the students were responding. I achieved this goal by listening to my students and observing them understand material that was being presented.

My fourth goal was Knowledge of Pedagogy and it was to make sure to state theorists during my lessons and explain why I was teaching certain things to my students. During teaching, I did mention Dalcroze in a lesson that was about eurhythmics and moving with our bodies. Dalcroze always made it a point to feel the beat within our bodies and for them to be the instruments.

The last goal that I set for myself was Knowledge of Self as a Teacher and Member of a Learning Community. My goal was to demonstrate professional behavior towards colleagues, administration, and students while I was teaching. I feel that I achieved this goal just by being myself and interacting with administration and colleagues at my cooperating school. Throughout my student teaching experience, I learned quite a bit about myself and what I am like as a teacher.

In conclusion, I am very proud of myself for accomplishing all of my student teaching goals during my experience and being able to learn new methods of teaching. During teaching, I learned about the students, administration, parents, cooperating teachers, but most importantly myself. After this wonderful experience, I truly believe that I am ready to have my own classroom and to be the best teacher that I can possibly be for my students.