

NICHOLAS MORTENSON

Teaching Philosophy

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Education is the gateway to a life of imagination, exploration, and discovery. I will be fostering curiosity in every student, making them question everything around themselves, and looking for the solutions of tomorrow using the tools of today. I firmly believe that every student should have the opportunity to be able to learn from a role model and pursue a career in anything that they want. The students should be open to trying new musical ideas and be given positive encouragement, this will allow the students to express themselves through music.

Educators are role models, molding the children whom they teach. Schools should be giving students a safe, secure, and structured environment to express themselves. Students should be able to try new ideas, vocations, activities, and hobbies. Schools should be a place where students can find not only the knowledge to propel themselves into the future, but a place for students to find themselves. I believe schools should be a place where students can also forge an identity for themselves molded by experiences and relationships. Educators, fulfilling roles greater than just a teacher, but rather a guiding hand that encourages students to find themselves; by showing students the complexities of life.

As a Music Teacher I am placed in an interesting position, between the formality of a structured school environment and the emotional battleground that is music. I have to show that I care about the students before they will care about what I know. Music is a highly structured form of self-expression. By this I mean that music can show deep emotion, yet you need the technical knowledge to be able to allow the music to flow in the student before it can flow out of them. Students, who are developing in music, must have a hunger to take the world into their hands and wrestle with it to produce the best outcome for themselves and for others around them.