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Self-Assessment and Personal Goals

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**Self-Assessment and Personal Goals Part 1:**

1. **Characteristics of a Qualified Music Teacher:**

Qualified music teachers possess a variety of characteristics and traits. Music teachers excel at one or multiple instruments, they are good performers who know the history and theory behind music. Someone who is a qualified music teacher understands stages of human development and how it relates to learning. Music teachers know how to motivate students, sometimes they act as cheerleaders. Qualified music teachers are perseverant problem solvers who are not only excited to teach, they are equally excited to learn how to teach.

1. **How do you see these qualities emerging in you over time?**

I believe I already possess many of the characteristics a qualified music teacher has. I know that I have an appreciation for music and am excited to share this with students. Because I already have a bachelors degree in composition, I believe I have a solid understanding of music theory and music history. I am continuing to study voice so that I will be able to carry my understanding of vocal pedagogy with me when I teach. I have taken some child development classes and understand how development effects learning. Although, development is an area that I would like to explore further so that I will be able to create lessons for any age group that are appropriate for the developmental stage. I would like to learn how to motivate students and use problem solving in a music classroom. I know that I am ready to learn how to teach and excited to teach. I believe that by observing other teachers, working with youth, and putting what I know into practice, that the qualities and characteristics of a qualified music teacher will follow.

**What limitations stand in the way of you becoming the music teacher you want to be?**

I have many limitations, but 3 concern me the most. First, I am aware that I am a perfectionist especially when I am singing. I’ve heard this throughout the years that I’ve spent doing music and recently just heard it from Dr. Kim, he said, “Being a perfectionist, you can only learn so much, you can only go so far.” I’m afraid that my students will pick up on this and that it will potentially limit and hurt their learning experience. Second, I have several learning disabilities that I discovered after I finished my degree in composition. This limitation is not only embarrassing for me, it makes me feel like I am less than my peers. Third, I have trouble with sight-singing and know that this will affect how far I will be able to go as a musician.

**Self-Assessment and Personal Goals Part 2:**

I already know that I have a passion for music and want to share it with students. I know that students thrive in a safe and supportive environment where they feel recognized. As a music teacher I want to boost my student’s self-esteem by recognizing each student’s individual attributes. I hope that in my music classroom my students will have fun, feel empowered and capable to create.

I have worked with youth of all ages in a variety of settings and have learned to communicate with any age group, on their level. I have also taken classes that taught me how development effects learning. However, my goal as a future music educator is to commit developmental stages to memory and learn how to teach lessons that better fit their needs.

I know that I want my students to feel recognized for their own personal attributes and want my students to give my students a sense of confidence so that they feel they can accomplish anything. I want to observe other teachers and work with youth so that I can gain tools and resources to learn how I can achieve this in my music classrooms.

This year I’d like to get connected with the school district as either a substitute teacher or as a paraprofessional so that I can meet other teachers in the area, utilize them as resources and learn from them. I also want to attend local and national conferences to gain insight and connect with others who share similar interests. Aside from goals to become connected with other music educators, I have several goals to better my musicianship and to become more comfortable with my own set-backs. I would like to find tools to become a better sight-singer, with dyslexia I find this to be a difficult task, but I believe that there are resources somewhere that make this a less daunting. To embrace imperfection and creativity, I would like to explore jazz and improvisation. Jazz allows more freedom and I feel that this will help me in my journey of becoming less of a perfectionist. Having learning disabilities, I am working to find accommodations that will help me reach my goal and am using every resource available so that I can succeed. I know that some of my students will have things that stand in their way of learning- not only do I want to help all of my students succeed in whatever they want to do, I also want to be honest with them, so that they know they aren’t alone. I watched a video that was posted on social media where a young girl asked Neil deGrasse Tyson if he knew anyone in his field who was dyslexic. He responded that he knew scientists that were on the autism spectrum, had dyscalculia, dyslexia, and ADD. He acknowledged “Yes, it’s a hurdle, but what do you do in the Olympics when there’s a hurdle? You jump over it.”