

Chelsea Piel

Teaching Philosophy

The student is the center of any group or private lesson. My goal in each teaching session is to provide my students with opportunities to learn more about their instruments and the world of music. I believe that in each lesson my students should learn the physicalities of playing their instrument and all the contextual information for the music and for the community around them. For example, in my future classroom, I would like to implement a day of the week for music history, music theory, and world music to give students background information on the music they are working on and the cultural heritage among the class.

I believe that my job as an educator should be to nurture the student's ability to teach themselves. When giving private instruction, I ask my students to assess their playing, their sound quality, and their progress. After they perform, I ask them how they felt about their performance, what went well, and what needs improvement. If they are able to answer these questions successfully in our lessons, then I know that I have provided them with a foundation for guiding their own practice.

However, a student's ability to manage their own learning in the future cannot solely be motivated by the need to be prepared for next week's lesson but must also be inspired by curiosity. When giving instruction I allow my students the freedom to explore problem-solving in their playing. I do this by asking guiding questions that can be answered with foundational knowledge. My students are then given the opportunity to try self-guided solutions to any issues they diagnosed.

I believe that my role as a music educator is to also be a source of joy and encouragement so that my students feel inspired to continue practicing and are always striving to

be the best musician they can be. When giving instruction I maintain a tone of excitement for teaching and for the progress of my students. After my students play for me I always ask what they believe went well so they can gauge the skills that have improved over the past week. My teaching experience so far has been limited, and I still have a lot to learn about teaching privately and in the classroom. As I go forward in my career, I am sure that my teaching philosophy will continue to change and develop.