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**Journal #1**

Even though my journey to becoming a music teacher has just begun there is a lot about music education that I already know. For example, I know that as music educators, we don’t just teach kids about music. When children come to music class, they are also learning valuable life lessons such as discipline, teamwork and a respect for the arts and culture. Music also serves as an expressive outlet for students and encourages creativity, unlike many other school subjects which focus only on getting good grades. It makes students feel good about what they are doing and helps develop a high self-esteem. As music educators, we are directly influencing the way our students view the world of music. It is our job to instill an appreciation for music in each of our students.

I also know some of the characteristics that separate a good music educator from a great music educator. Music teachers should be encouraging. We should encourage each of our students to reach their goals and have fun doing it. We need to be patient. Students aren’t always going to get things on the first (or 12th) try. We need to be understanding of this and have different ways to explain things to help our students recognize how to fix their problem. A music educator needs to be good at planning and have a flexible schedule. Between lessons, rehearsals and our own personal music events, it often becomes hard to fit everything in. Finding time for everything is difficult, but essential in running a well-organized classroom. We need to be well rounded in the field of music. A band teacher, for example, can’t just play the trumpet really well but have little knowledge of the other instruments in the band. Throughout our career as educators, we will need to know music theory, music history and have a working knowledge of many instruments. Lastly (and most importantly, in my opinion), a music teacher should be inspiring. We need to show our students that we are truly passionate about what we do. This will inspire them to work harder and maybe even spark interest in pursuing music. A great music educator should be many things but, ultimately, our goal is to pass our love and appreciation of music onto each and every one of our students.