

## **My Beliefs About Education and Teaching**

**- Mr. Smith -**

I believe that every student has the right to cultivate a mode of expression that transcends speech and written language. In our responsibility of educating every aspect of the student, to deny them the ability to express themselves through music is to deny the developmental process of creativity and emotional communication. As a teacher, it is my responsibility to ensure that when a student enters my classroom they feel that it is a safe place to explore their inner creativity while being in an environment that also encourages positive group learning.

While in my classroom, students will not only have the opportunity to grow as individuals, but will also learn how to be part of a team. Musical ensembles are the foundation for learning how to work with individuals from diverse backgrounds toward a common goal through hard work, constructive criticism, and selfless unity. My classroom will strive to encourage the cultivation of life-long friendships, mutual respect for others, and a sense of family amongst the students, while modeling future group scenarios that the students will understand how to be a part of long after they have graduated.

In the development of a sense of family, I will not only nurture the academic and musical advancement of the students, but will also strive for the inclusion of their families. I believe that the student is more than the person we see as teachers in our classroom, but an extension of their family, history, and culture. It is therefore my responsibility to ensure positive communication and incorporation of their family into the team spirit of their student's musical endeavors.

As a teacher and lifelong learner, I believe that my students have as much to teach me about life and music, as I have to teach them. Teaching and learning form a symbiotic relationship that grows through nourishment from both sides. I will always strive to give my students the absolute best education that they deserve and in return, I will learn from the countless experiences they will share with me as a teacher. In education, I believe that the greatest gift we have to give will also be the one we receive in return from our students.