

Teaching music courses at the university level is an incredibly complex profession that requires passion, patience, and understanding in the development of students into future artist-teachers of their field. I believe it is important that musicians have a fundamental understanding of the craft they are studying in terms of sound, musicianship, and breath control.

I challenge all my students to practice and to study efficiently in hopes of reaching their dreams in any field of their choice. As a teacher of impressionable young men and women who are looking to better themselves with higher education, I believe it is very important for an educator to present their students an idea of the final product he or she should aspire to reach. With respect to my music students, I challenge them to become outstanding artist-teachers.

Artist-teachers in my definition of world-class performers and educators who are able to relay the joy and the passion of music to others. The role of the artist-teacher can be achieved in a number of ways: as a middle school band director who performs with a jazz combo in the late evenings; as a cellist who performs with a string quartet and maintains a private studio; as a music historian who also performs with an early music ensemble; etc. No matter the direction a student takes to reach his or her goals, the teacher has successfully molded a young mind into someone who will someday encourage other young minds to reach the highest levels of artistry and education.

Although I do not think it is possible to dictate which teaching style or modality is the best in helping students become great artist-teachers, I do believe certain characteristics are essential for educators in successful student tutelage: passion, patience, and understanding. I show the students in my music appreciation classes, chamber ensembles, and applied lessons, the importance of the study of this art form through my passion. My tuba and euphonium studio witnesses this excitement when I perform a solo recital after months of preparation. My music appreciation students recognize my zeal for music because I get excited for every genre that is studied in class. Observing a classically trained musician passionately discuss hip-hop, Indian music, and movie soundtracks, challenges the student to respect the wonderful diversity music has to offer. My chamber ensemble students may see an intense demeanor in my approach of teaching because I want them to understand the importance of passionate music-making from the initial note of performance to the final shaping of the piece.