

Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy is rooted in a love for learning, passion for music, and a desire to help people grow. These three aspects influenced me the most as a student and I now hope to impact my students in the same way.

Method

My approach to private lessons is remembering that I will always be a student myself. I will always strive to learn from my students and to find new and personal ways to teach them. With each student, I spend the first lesson going over the fundamental aspects of playing the clarinet or saxophone (tone, scales, technique, articulation, finger position, and posture) and then assign them exercises and something fun to learn for the next week. I use this method regardless of the student's ability and then tailor each lesson to the areas in which they can improve the most.

Private Lessons

A typical private lesson begins with a short warm up that consists of long tones and a few scales. I always play with my students to give them a solid concept of sound and air support that they should be using. After that, I usually will have them play either an etude or exercises that they were assigned the previous week. I like to give some verbal comments but I believe it is much more effective to demonstrate for the student and have them play it back to me. After this part of the lesson, I typically move on to repertoire (ranging from short fun pieces for beginners to major concertos for more advanced students). This format is a general outline, but it is certainly flexible depending on what the student needs the most help with.

Relationships

Every student is an individual and I desire to treat him or her that way. I love getting to know my students if time permits at the end of lessons and I believe that it is crucial for the student to view me as both a person and a teacher. I frequently ask my students questions and allow them to ask me anything they like within the bounds of what is appropriate.

Discipline

I believe that teachers must have a high standard for their students. I am not afraid to push them when needed and to be honest with them (depending on their age and level). My job as a teacher is to help my students grow as a musician and as a person, and having high standards of discipline is key to that growth. I encourage my students to practice a consistent amount every day, with a maximum of one day off per week, so that they can truly realize their potential as musicians and learn what it means to be disciplined with something you love doing.

Organization

If my students do not already have a practice chart, I will print them the practice schedule found on the Musician's Way website. Having a practice schedule makes the task of

practicing much less daunting and allows students to work in practice time among time for school, homework, and fun activities. For younger students, it is helpful to have the parents involved in this process by having them sign off on the practice sheet, however, as they get older, I try to involve the parents less and encourage them to be more self-motivated in filling out and sticking to their practice chart.