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Elementary General Music Teacher

Interview Questions

1. *Share your background of experience that has prepared you to be a music teacher. Why are you interested in teaching at Abington?*
How was your student teaching experience? What aspects of that program would you change? What aspects would you leave the same?
2. *Describe your ideal teaching position. How would the classes be set up? What grade levels would be involved? How often? What grade for chorus? Is there a chorus?*
3. *Describe your rehearsal or class. What would an observer see? How would it be the same from one class to the next? How would it be different? How do you assess if students are learning?*
4. *Describe what a student would be expected to learn after one year in your program? Say I am a parent of a first grade child. What would you expect a first grader to demonstrate after the first year? How about after the sixth grade?*
5. *Describe how you have used technology in the classroom. State your technology competencies.*
6. *What is your most outstanding quality as a music educator? What other strengths do you possess? Which of your professional skills do you feel needs the greatest development?*
7. *How might you deal with a child who is not singing or participating in class? What if the child was angry or acting out? What if the child was withdrawn?*
8. *What other interests/talents do you bring to Abington School District that would be beneficial to us?*

"In the real world, one of the biggest challenges a classroom teacher faces is overcoming a reluctance to learn on the part of the students....Creating this desire for learning is the challenge" - Ellen Criss

The greatest sign of success for a teacher is to be able to say, "The children are now working as if I did not exist." - Maria Montessori

"The collective efficacy of the teachers in a school is a better predictor of student success in schools than the socioeconomic status of students." - Goodard, R. D., Hoy, W.K., & Hoy, A. W

"If an educator keeps using the same strategies over and over and the student keeps failing, who really is the slow learner?" - Michael D. Rettig – Educator

Interview Inventory

1. People skills

The education profession is a people profession. You are teaching young people....Music.

"You have a lot more widgets and wadgets, but it still comes down to a teacher in the classroom with a student." - S. A. MacDonald – Educator 1908-1955.

"Among experienced coaches, there is little difference in their technical knowledge of the game. However, there is a vast difference in their ability to motivate and teach the game." - John Wooden

"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." - William Arthur Ward

2. Music Fundamentals

What do you want students to learn in your classes?

"People think there are great mysteries connected with the game, but there are not. It's just teaching fundamentals." - Paul Brown - NFL coach & owner

"We are all about the process and, not the final product!" - Peter Loel Boonshaft - Music Educator

"Stack the skills so the rank and file child can succeed." - Michael L. Allen - Music Educator

3. Musicianship

I assume you are an accomplished musician. How will you improve the musicianship of your students?

*"The key to your success will be not what you do, but how well you teach what you do."
- John Robinson - Football Coach*

"If a student has the gumption to walk into your class, teach 'em." - S. A. MacDonald

"Coaches who can outline plays on a blackboard are a dime a dozen. The ones who win get inside their players and motivate them." - Vince Lombardi - Football Coach

*"No coach has ever won a game by what he knows; it's what his players know that counts."
- Paul "Bear" Bryant*

4. Administrivia

How organized are you? On-line grading, lesson plans, budget, etc.

"Organization and administration alone cannot make an ensemble sound good, but a lack of them can keep it from doing so." - David Gregory – Music Educator

"As the biggest library, if it is in disorder is not as useful as a small but well-arranged one, so you may accumulate a vast amount of knowledge but it will be of far less value to you than a much smaller amount if you have not thought it over for yourself." - Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860), German philosopher

"Organizing is not a destination; it is the gateway to your higher goal." - Julie Morgenstern