

This interview took place with an elementary music teacher from eastern Kentucky. This interview took place on Saturday, February 26th and lasted 30 minutes. The questions that were asked are as follows;

- How often do you typically listen to podcasts?
- How long would you listen to a podcast?
- What problems are you encountering in your school and classroom?
- Are you seeing any community related or pandemic related issues in your school or classroom?
- What topics should you be interested in learning more about?

My initial thoughts on this subject would be that this podcast could be a broader resource for music educators in the United States. It would be a way to pull together different resources and present them in a way that would be easier access to every educator. This podcast series would be able to provide information on hard subject matters that educators face every day.

This interview was great for showing us that even though we are in different school districts and teaching different age ranges, that we are in very similar situations because of the environment of Eastern Kentucky and the issues we are facing caused by the pandemic. It also showed me that my initial thoughts were not quite on target with what is needed in our area. It did show me that we do need a way to compile resources in a way that is more digestible for a variety of educators. Sometimes finding information can be so overwhelming that we do not know where to start. Her situation is unique in the fact that she had been teaching high school

band, choir, and general music for most of her career. She just recently switched to teaching elementary music.

She is currently teaching at an elementary school that is Kindergarten through fifth grade. Some specific challenges that she faces is having easy access to information and knowing where to look for quick and easy resources to implement in her classroom. Her main concerns for her students are to make sure that there have been no gaps in education due to the effects of the pandemic and the poverty level at her school. Some other challenges unique in her situation is not having access to the appropriate amount of instruments needed for her class sizes. Due to a lack of funding she either has to borrow instruments from other schools and/or have students share instruments because they do not have a full classroom set. Some current struggles she is facing because of the pandemic are not being able to play recorders or be able to sing as much as she would like to because of the risk of spreading COVID-19. Some other areas that she was interested in learning more about were resources in the field of elementary music and what other teachers in her area are doing.

I found she did not have a lot of experience listening to podcasts. She had looked up a few in the past but had issues finding podcasts that were suitable for her needs. She also is a visual learner and has a hard time focusing on formats that are listening-based. She tends to enjoy the podcasts that are more engaging when she does listen to podcasts. She usually listens to podcasts in her car for about 10 to 15 minutes. If they are more engaging though, she will listen to longer podcasts.

After this interview I have realized that I may need to do some more research on how to put podcasts out more accessible to people. My friend and I should look at resources explaining how to better reduce podcasts to be more accessible and the description and the platform the

podcast is found on. Some people may have issues with locating podcasts more suited to their needs. By doing more research in this area we can get a larger participation from viewers. This podcast is a great way to reach Educators in the world of music and provide them with more detailed information on how to achieve help and resources suited for them. By making our podcast easily accessible and full of a variety of resources for music educators we can lead them to reach greater achievement in their classrooms. When we follow up with our participants after the first episode we will see if they were able to go out and look at the resources we suggested and see if they were able to use them in their own classroom. If they were, we can ask how that resource helped them to be a better teacher and for us to see tangible outcomes and their career.

Again, this interview has shown me that Educators are seeing a common effect from the pandemic and are needing an easier way to find resources suited for them. Some things that I need to look into before our first episode is to find a way to format our podcast channel in a way that is easy to access and to sort through to find tailored information to the area that a teacher may be looking for. Another thing we should look into before posting our podcast is how to put out episodes with descriptions and keywords to help educators better identify the subject matter covered in each individual episode. When putting out an episode we need to make it as easy as possible for educators to find and listen to content related to their needs.