

Reflection on Youth Wind Symphony Band Practice

By: Heather Schettler

I found the band practice interesting, if only to see different ways to motivate students to do stuff. Being that I'll become a teacher myself, it's important to be able to pick up on what does and doesn't work, and why. As far as I could tell from Dr. Clark, one thing that I noticed about him, is that he was willing to show extreme emotions. This firmed my belief that the teachers easiest to connect with, are the kind that act like they're human, rather than just robotic and going through the motions.

I also learned that band practice is not all that different from choir class, in the way you have to compare sounds in order to convey what you want the students to fix. Perhaps I could use that in my own classroom. I would like to have an opportunity for the kids to "perform" in front of the class. Especially with poetry. Really, half the fun with reading something out loud is playing with the dimensions emphasis and tone. Especially with the more subtle sort of literature which poetry often falls into.

If you haven't noticed from the above paragraphs, I still want to be an English teacher. I'm not sure if my resolve has been re enforced, but it hasn't decreased. Really, all the rehearsal did for me was give me more data on what good and bad teaching looks like, which is always immensely helpful. I have to remember to write about it in more detail in my "Teaching Dreams" notebook soon.

The whole experience left me feeling generally satisfied. I haven't had an opportunity to sit in on a teacher's lesson for a while, though I wish I could have done the same thing with an English teacher instead, but alas, my life just wouldn't allow it. Still interesting to watch though.