

William Edmundson

Dr. Erik Johnson

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Personal Goals Statement

The field of education is something I am personally quite new to. I have had little segments and tastes of education in the past in high school, but I have only recently done professional education in private lessons over the summer. However, I have been observing teachers teaching for years and I have noticed some techniques and some characteristics that change a good teacher to a great teacher.

I personally see some good in my teaching that I have learned first and foremost how to communicate with my students. Building up a rapport with my students is second nature to me, and when rapport is natural, general communication is easy. When something is not working for my student, I switch up my teaching style, and change things so that my students can understand the concepts I throw at them. I feel I struggle specifically with areas where I have never struggled before. Tone has naturally come to me, and I have a very limited knowledge on how to teach it or to even get my students to understand tone concepts.

In my opinion the characteristics of a qualified music teacher are having a vast quantity of knowledge on the instrument they are teaching first and foremost. They should be familiar with a wide variety of techniques for teaching every aspect of an instrument, but most importantly qualified music teachers need to be able to listen and to communicate with their students. I see these emerging from my teaching very slowly, but very surely. The knowledge and techniques are slowly getting there with time, but the communication is, at least I personally

feel, already there. The only limitation that stands in the way of me being the music teacher I want to be are my expectations and experience. I feel that over time I will be able to be the teacher I want to be.

I plan to grow as a professional music teacher by being able to teach in an actual school setting. The last time I taught in a school setting was pre-covid, in my high school, and when I was a student. Being able to specifically get instruction via direct observation and immediate replication will do wonders for me. I wish to be able to learn more about education methods that will help me teach and gain personal knowledge on how the instrument works in as many different ways as possible. I feel this is both achievable and reasonable, especially through all the time during my undergrad.