NAfME Meeting 2/25/2020

Meeting start: 7:32

Guest speakers!

Teaching outside concentration presentation.

1. Sarah Gorecki: 3-5 General music and middle school choir
2. Spent years teaching outside her comfort zone!
3. She does ukulele 5th grade, recorder 4th grade, harmonica 3rd grade - good musical avenue as an instrumentalist!
4. She’s created her own curriculum!
5. National Standards: They can be broken down!
6. Standard- “Demonstrate and explain how the selection of music to perform is influenced by personal interest, context, and technical skill.”
7. Break it down: “Demonstrate how the selection of music to perform is influenced by personal interest.”
8. This sentence can be broken down into six combos: one red with one green each time. Then it’s like a checklist: students need to be able to do each one individually, but not all at once.

5. She was never in choir before, and she now teaches choir.

6. An ensemble is an ensemble! Choir kids need help in different ways; they need to learn tonal memory and how to match pitch!

7. “If you are willing to continue learning, then you are willing to teach to your fullest potential.”

Contact Sarah Gorecki at sgorecki@sangamonvalley.org!

II. Ashley Shamhart

1. Concentration- band! Trombone. She taught band for practicum. Student teaching was also entirely band.
2. Didn’t get any job applied for. Circumstances led to general music teaching in Charleston!
3. It was stressful because of the lack of experience.
4. As it turns out, general music is a lot of singing! Maybe around 3 hours a day.
5. Kids are sweet but also they’ll say anything.
6. Use of instruments are planned by how stressful it could be. Activities are planned ahead to give the teacher a break too!
7. She’s teaching the kids what the instruments are! Kids can get these things wildly long. But she just rolls with the punches!
8. She’s trained the kids to use hand sanitizer every day!
9. She is not full time, so she does a ton of other duties as well! High school band would still most likely be more stressful.
10. “I’m enjoying it. Not today. Today was not a good day. But maybe tomorrow will be a great day!”

Ashley’s email: ashleynshamhart@gmail.com

III. Questions:

1. What advice would you give your past self to prepare yourself?

-Get as much experience with as many different grade levels as possible! General music has changed a lot. Observe as much as possible!

-Observe many different things! Also, take piano class seriously!

1. How did curriculum approval work?

-It’s never been approved or disapproved. They don’t generally ask what the curriculum covers!

-Make the curriculum with the end goal in mind!

-An old curriculum can be used as a reference, but it must be updated!

-If they go to other teachers after you, you can talk to the other teachers about what they’re doing so you can prepare them!

-In the grade school, classes are divided into higher and lower “tracks.” With the higher classes, standards can be pushed a little higher! Everyone gets the same lessons, but the higher class maybe gets an extra challenge! Lower classes can have leaders.

1. How can vocalists prepare to teach instrumental music?

-It’s just voices! Research must be done about the instruments, but vocalists can hear a lot of the problems!

-Music reading experience can be enough most of the time if you can play your instrument to like a 7th grade level!

-Be honest and then follow up! If you don’t know, be willing to tell them so and then come back to them! Maybe keep fingering charts in the classroom!

-There are a ton of general music jobs and not as many of everything else. You may not get your ideal job, but experience is experience!

-Don’t wear sweatpants to your major classes!

-Be open to new experiences! Kids can be really amazing! “They can be very sweet, and they can also be demons.”

IV. NAfME announcements:

1. National and chapter dues due next meeting, March 12th! Unless you’ve already paid in the fall.
2. IMEC- payment is being taken care of! Refunds cannot be given back until then.
3. Kurtis Decker- sounds like a recruitment panel will be in the upcoming meeting!
4. Service hours opportunities:
5. Ashley Shamhart still needs help! Check out if you can go play an instrument in front of 5 year olds and show them the instrument!
6. Also, March 4: help is needed moving instruments! Another service hour opportunity!
7. ILMEA Large group festival: Fri, March 13 and Sat, March 14! Friday- choir! That’s the beginning of spring break! Guides needed! Service hour opportunity (or observation hours- but no double dipping)! Saturday, Doudna crew needs help!

5. Potential fundraiser: bake sale the week after spring break! For t-shirts! If anyone has a t-shirt design idea, send it to an officer!

* Interest sheet for bake sale will be passed around next meeting! Items to bake must be able to be packaged separately. So no entire cake. Also, ingredients must be available because of food allergies!