Hurlie Yang

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Value and Belief Statement

I believe music can positively affect people and improve their lives tremendously. Music inevitably moves people and touches people’s hearts. It is important to study music and experience music because it is a way to express yourself and your feelings. When you have a bad day, listening to music can calm you down. It brings happiness and joy to people.

When I was in high school, I joined the Music Honor Society, which gave me the great opportunity to perform not only in school, but also outside of school. I often visited veterans’ homes to play music; people smiled and encouraged me, which gave me confidence. It was the most pleasurable gift anyone could ever give me. I believe that everyone should receive an education in music. This does not mean that everyone should have a degree in music but some kind of music lessons and experiences throughout your studies are always beneficial.

Certified music teachers should be responsible for delivering education in music. This includes private instrumental teachers, public school music teachers or conductors and college music professors. Music is not only important in the K-12 school setting but also important beyond high school. I believe that college students should have some required basic music courses. I consider music as important as English, Math, History and Science. I even think preschoolers should have some experience with music too. For example, just listening to classical music and hearing people sing songs can help them understand music more. Teachers can easily combine music and games to develop self-expression and creativity in young children. As children grow, teachers should try adding improvisation and instruments to the music program.

I hope my students encounter positive experiences when learning music. However, I understand that some students might be overwhelmed when learning instruments at first, but this is when teachers come in to help the students. A good teacher can transform students’ mindsets and develop their interests in music. I believe a good teacher should have well-defined beliefs, but always remember to stay open to change and growth. My teaching philosophy is to be patient but have high expectations at the same time. It is important to push children in order for them to grow but being patient is the key to success.