

Preparing for Your Student Teaching Experience and Beyond!

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ASTA Standards for Successful School String/Orchestra Teachers (revised 2015)

As a Musician

As an Educator

As a Professional

What can I do in the semesters BEFORE my student teaching experience to help prepare?

Musician

- Develop your musicianship and teachership in all aspects
- Develop mastery skills on your primary instrument
- Develop more advanced skills on at least one secondary instrument
 - What methods instrument were you most successful on?
 - If you are an upper string player, take cello or double bass lessons
 - If you are a tuba player, take woodwind or percussion lessons
- Perform in your major ensemble(s)
- Explore ensemble participation outside of your primary area
 - Community/Regional orchestra/band/choir
 - Church ensembles
 - Collegiate Ensembles
- Seek opportunities to play for fun!
- Listen and analyze scores for solos, chamber ensembles, and large-group ensembles in your discipline.

Educator

- Explore music teaching opportunities
 - Coursework peer-teaching episodes
 - Community/University Partnerships
 - Church music programs
 - After School Programs
 - String Project
 - Honor Choirs
 - Children's Chorus
 - Youth Orchestra/Wind Ensembles
 - Camps/Workshops
 - Private Lessons
 - School Sectional Coaching
 - The more you can do, the better prepared you will be for your student teaching experience and BEYOND!
- Seek out opportunities to observe classrooms and rehearsals
 - Local public and private schools
 - Region/All-State Auditions and Clinics
 - Community ensemble rehearsals and concerts
- Subscribe to email lists for publishers/distributors, music teaching blogs, and music teaching Facebook groups.
- Explore other tutoring opportunities (in any subject you feel comfortable)
- Swap a lesson with a colleague.
- Purposefully observe classrooms in local districts and across the state.
- Purposefully take on organization and administrative opportunities
 - Many novice teachers struggle with the administrative aspects of teaching.
 - Seek out opportunities to learn more about those aspects
 - Budgets
 - Grant Writing
 - Organization
 - Inventories
 - Website Building
 - Gradebooks

- More
- Prepare for your Certification Exams
 - Kansas State Department of Education
 - Testing Information: <https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Teacher-Licensure-and-Accreditation/Postsecondary/Educator-Preparation/Licensure-Testing>
 - License Application: <https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Teacher-Licensure-and-Accreditation/Licensure/License-Application>
- Look into certifications in CPR or others that may be required for you. CDL, ESL, etc.

Professional

- Become involved in professional organizations
 - Professional
 - NAFME/ASTA/NBA/ACDA/MTNA/SAA/OAKE/DSA/AOSA/ISME/others
 - National and International music guilds/associations/societies
 - KMEA
 - KASTA/KBA/KCDA
 - Campus/State chapters of these organizations
 - Social/Civic/Community organizations
 - Attend conference or local workshops sponsored by these organizations
 - What does the national office offer?
 - Are there scholarships available?
- Draw from other job experiences
 - Public relations
 - Organization
 - Scheduling
 - Professional Collaboration and Respect
- Write professional correspondence to all professors, educators, and other contacts EVERY TIME. Maintain professional rapport with all professors and educators.
- Maintain a professional persona on social media and the internet
 - Google your name (your future cooperating teachers, supervisors, and employers are!)
 - Remove or request that any unprofessional pictures/videos be taken down
 - Create a professional email account outside your school email
 - John.Doe@gmail.com
 - ~~Kittiesarethebest@gmail.com~~
- Maintain a professional rapport with your student colleagues. They will be your professional colleagues forever!
- Plan your courses, summer classes, and summer plans (festivals, teaching at camps, others) early.
 - Take courses outside of your discipline to expand your knowledge and experiences
 - Plan out what semester you would like to student teach (Fall or Spring)
 - What are pros and cons to either semester?
 - What type of school do you want to observe more? Rural, Suburban, Urban? Consider what geographic area/type of school you want to student teach in.
- Create a personal, professional website or portfolio
 - Include your resume, teaching activities, performance activities, contact information, etc.
 - Include links to teaching and performance videos
- Collect videos of your performance and teaching activities
 - Edit them as you collect them
 - Sort them into folders: Ensemble rehearsals, private lessons taught, sectionals taught, performance, conducting, and others.
- Collect Interview Questions online and from your professors.
 - Practice answering them. Script out answers.
 - Prepare for Phone, Skype/Facetime, and Live Interviews
- Dress professionally when observing in the schools and working with other professionals.

What can I do in the IMMEDIATE semester before my student teaching experience to help prepare?

Musician

- Continue suggestions above.
- Check out/Rent a secondary instrument (if possible) to practice. Choose another secondary instrument to work on.

Educator

- Continue suggestions above.
- Continue to expand your teaching experiences through practicum and peer teaching experiences.
- Take your Certification Exams (when given clearance)
- Submit your request for student teaching placement (probably required much earlier!)
- Register and complete CPR certification and other certifications that you may need to acquire.

Professional

- Continue suggestions above.
- Update your resume and a cover letter. Edit, edit, edit! Have your music education professor edit it.
- Update your personal, professional website or portfolio
- Make sure to acquire professional attire for your student teaching experience
- Schedule a meeting with your cooperating teacher(s) to discuss the upcoming semester.
- Make sure you know how to get a copy of your transcript(s) and how much it will cost to send those to potential districts when you begin applying for jobs. Fees vary.
- Begin contacting those people that you would like to have serve as references for you. Ask for their permission to list their name and contact information on your resume and let them know that you will be applying for jobs.

What can I do DURING my student teaching experience to get the most out of it?

Musician

- Continue to make music!
 - Play/Sing in a community ensemble
 - Practice your primary and secondary instruments
 - Let the students hear you practice/score study
 - Shows the process
- Attend musical performances of other ensembles in your assigned schools, local universities, and professional ensembles.

Educator

- **Apply**
 - Jump in!
 - ACTIVELY participate in all aspects of the program.
 - Curriculum/Lesson Planning/Materials
 - Program administration and organization
 - Budgets
 - Short- and Long-Term goals
 - Work and Life Balance
 - Musician
 - Educator
 - Professional
 - Know the disciplinary policies for the classroom, school, and district
 - Know the emergency procedures for the classroom, school, and district
 - Apply what you have learned in your coursework, previous experiences, and the new strategies you are learning from your cooperating teachers.
 - Challenge yourself
 - Never refuse an opportunity to teach
 - Be open to advice and constructive criticism.
 - Don't be afraid to make a mistake. You are human. But learn from it.
- **Analyze**
 - Document that inner monologue
 - Did you get to teach the same lesson two classes in a row? What went better or worse?
 - What issue did you encounter in 3rd period? How will you make it better tomorrow?
 - Clements & Klinger (2010) encourage us to separate OBSERVATION from INFERENCE
 - "To observe is to watch attentively with specific goals in mind...Inference is the act of reason upon an observation. A good observation will begin with pure observation devoid of inference. After an observation of the phenomenon being studied is completed, it is appropriate to infer meaning to what has been observed" (p. 15).

- Gather all the things!
 - Budgets
 - Discipline plans
 - Travel plans
 - Curriculum
 - Motivation strategies
 - EVERYTHING!
- **Reflect**
 - Take time to reflect
 - Informally, between classes and during travel
 - Formally, write a personal journal about your daily experiences
 - Share your experiences with your colleagues and mentors.
 - After you have gone through artifacts you have collected from your cooperating teacher, ask questions about how and why they made the choices and decisions that they did regarding those artifacts.
 - In the car between schools
 - Write a personal journal about your daily experiences
 - Share your experiences with your colleagues and mentors
 - Celebrate your progress daily!

Professional

- It's a lot of work!
- Take care of yourself – sleep, eat right, drink water, wash your hands
- Ask to be introduced to your campus administration, teachers, and staff.
- Speak to other teachers in your building, district, and region. Get to know them.
- Role Identity
 - Transition between Student and Teacher
 - Continue to foster those mentor relationships with your university professors, cooperating teacher, and other professionals and peers.
 - Maintain your identity as a musician, educator, and professional.
- Continue to be involved in professional organizations.
- Continue building professional relationships

You are ready! You are prepared!
Continue to grow as a Musician, Educator, and Professional throughout your career.
You have the best job in the world! You are a music educator!
Now jump in the deep end! Enjoy the ride!

Selected Resources

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