**Reflection of my Student Teaching Experience**

WHAT DID YOU PERSONALLY LEARN FROM THIS EXPERIENCE:

Quite honestly, I learned that I am a lot more prepared to take on a teaching position than I thought I was. Pine View High School has a full time choral program. After teaching these six classes, I feel like I am prepared to take on any sort of choral/music content teaching job. I learned that I am comfortable in the classroom and I have learned to be more comfortable when I comes to performances. I never realized just how much I am "watched" by the students. I always looked up to my teachers, but this trait is especially high when in a fine arts position. These students are not just my students, they are my "friends". That is how they see me. I learned this semester how to create a good balance between being their friend versus demanding the respect in the classroom setting.

I could not have asked for a better mentor teacher. Rob Reimer helped to ensure that I learned something new each day. I have learned so much about the logistics of running a choral program. I have learned how to process forms, book hotels, schedule busses, ask for chaperones, and more. Rob has helped me to train my ear to become a better director. I can listen for the fine details and improve them, these are the things that make a choral program successful. I have learned a ton of technique from Rob when it comes to physically directing a choir. I have learned how to best balance my life and my job at the same time.

WHAT WERE YOUR STRENGTHS?

I feel one of my biggest assets to the choral program what my organizational skills. We were able to completely redo the entire music library and reorganize the classroom as a whole. Another strength I have is my level of preparedness. Pine View High School has a legacy of qualifying at the Region Festival for the State Festival. Understanding that this means a lot to Rob as well as the students, I didn't want to be the thing that stood in their way. I approached Rob and let him know that I was ok with watching the Region Festival and letting him direct it if that made him more comfortable. Rob insisted that I direct half of the pieces at the festival, which I did, and we qualified all of our choir for the State Festival. Rob let me know that he trusted me and that I was experienced and prepared enough for him to feel comfortable in giving me half of the repertoire. This is a big deal! Being prepared is one of my strongest attributes. I feel like a third strength that I posses as a teacher is having the ability to "roll with the punches". In a rehearsal things can go very differently than you expect them to. I have the ability to keep the class period moving along in a productive, energetic manner, while still accomplishing the things that need to be done and allowing the students to enjoy their time while in the class.

WHICH AREAS CAN YOU IMPROVE?

I strongly believe that there is always room for improvement. Within the craft of directing, there is still much for me to learn! When it comes to teaching strategies, I will continually learn new, exciting ways. I know that my first year of teaching will be hard work and that it will show me the places I need to work the hardest in, but I am ready. I am a person who is willing and open to suggestions, ideas, and improvements. I love to learn and I believe there is never a time to stop learning.

HOW HAS STUDENT TEACHING INFLUENCED YOUR PERSONAL EFFICACY?

Student teaching has given me the confidence I need to move on to a career in teaching. In some ways, I think student teaching is harder than having a job in teaching. Not only is everything new when you walk into the classroom for the student teaching, but the program is up and running full throttle. It is like attempting to jump onto a train that is already moving at full speed. You are teaching based off of someone else's ideas. In the musical field it is crucial that I stick very closely to what my mentor teacher has already put in place. Luckily, we got along perfect and even had many of the same teaching expectations for ourselves and the students. As I approach a career in music education, I do so with confidence rather than hesitation thanks to my experience while student teaching.