

Domain I Overview

The first Domain, which encompasses InTASC Standards 1,2 and 3, deals with the Learner and Learning. This domain, and the standards contained within it, are used to guide teachers in ensuring that they are completing the necessary steps in order to understand how their students learn, grow and develop as individuals, understand their student's individual differences and diverse cultural backgrounds, and create learning environments that are inclusive, and collaborative. These are necessary tasks that must be accomplished in order to successfully connect with students and help each one of them to grow as individuals by developing lesson plans and activities that support their diverse learning needs.

This domain to me, is incredibly important. As teachers, we must always strive to teach to each individual student, and not just the whole class. There are so many unique learning differences within just one class, and it is imperative that all teachers do their best to tailor their lessons and activities to their student's needs in order to facilitate an opportunity for the most growth in students. I cannot imagine a positive learning experience for students that does not involve a teacher who individualizes instruction to each student in order for them all to achieve at their highest level, and motivates students to be actively engaged in lessons and interact positively with one another.

To demonstrate my competency in this domain, I have included several lesson plans which are tailored for the needs of the students within my classroom, and a video showing my interactions with students that encourages a positive and inclusive learning environment.

InTASC Rationale:

Domain I – The Learner and Learning

Standard #1 – Learner Development: The teacher understands how learners grow and develop, recognizing that patterns of learning and development vary individually within and across the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical areas, and designs and implements developmentally appropriate and challenging learning.

At the high school level, there can be a wide range of talent/ability levels in the music classroom, even within the same grade and section. It is important that as a music teacher you provide the more advanced players with concepts and advanced techniques to push them to the next level, while also adhering to the needs of the other students in the class. This lesson introduces all of the players to this advanced technique but does it in a very simple and achievable way in order for all students to succeed. This way, the more advanced players are being exposed to this technique and can continue to grow, while the other players are being exposed as well while still working on basic concepts like articulating clearly and developing their tone.

Artifact: High School Trumpet Lesson Plan

InTASC Rationale:

Domain I - The Learner and Learning

Standard #2 - Learning Differences: The teacher uses understanding of individual differences and diverse cultures and communities to ensure inclusive learning environments that enable each learner to meet high standards.

The teacher is aware that the concept of minor tonalities and scales can be difficult for some students to understand. With all of the different minor scales, it can be hard for students to remember which minor scale is which. Knowing this, the teacher created a lesson sequence that builds upon the student's prior knowledge to learn new concepts. The teacher relates the natural minor scale to the major scale that the students are most comfortable with and teaches the class how to alter the major scale in order to create the natural minor scale. By doing this, the students can see how the 2 scales are related and they are able to understand natural minor scales much quicker. After doing this, the teacher will then use this new knowledge of the natural minor scale as a basis for constructing the harmonic and melodic minor scales. By using this sequence, the teacher builds upon knowledge that the students already have to make a confusing and difficult concept more easily understandable to the students. This sequence can be observed within the video clip that is presented.

Artifact: edTPA Task 2 video

InTASC Rationale:

Domain I – The Learner and Learning

Standard #3 – Learning Environments: The teacher works with others to create environments that support individual and collaborative learning, and that encourage positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self-motivation.

The teacher is aware of the importance of the environment in which a student learns, and the positive or negative impacts it can have. The teacher is aware that the music room should be a place filled with enjoyment and excitement, and the room itself should reflect this. This means having posters and drawings around the room that showcase student work, fun mnemonic devices to help students remember basic musical concepts, showcase different instruments, and include bright colors in order to create a sense of happiness and joy for whoever walks into the room. Along with this, the teacher is aware that anyone who walks into the room deserves to be greeted with acknowledgement and a smile.

Artifact: Pictures of an elementary music classroom