

**“Come on In,  
the Water’s Fine!”  
Preparing for  
Your  
Student Teaching  
Experience  
and  
Beyond!**



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So WHO are you?!!

How have you and how will you  
prepare for the  
***BEST career on earth?!***

Musician  
Educator  
Professional



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





Musician

# Musician

- ? Develop your musicianship and teachership
- ? Develop mastery skills on your primary instrument
- ? Develop more advanced skills on at least one secondary instrument
- ? Perform in your major ensemble(s)
- ? Explore ensemble participation outside of your primary area
- ? Seek opportunities to play for FUN!
- ? Listen and analyze scores for solos, chamber ensembles, and large-group ensembles in your discipline...and BEYOND!



Educator

# Educator

- ? Explore musical teaching opportunities
- ? Seek out opportunities to purposefully observe classrooms and rehearsals
- ? Subscribe to email lists for publishers/distributors, music teaching blogs, and music teaching Facebook groups
- ? Explore other tutoring opportunities
- ? Swap a lesson with a colleague
- ? Purposefully take on organization and administrative opportunities
- ? Prepare for your Certification Exams
- ? Look into certifications in CPR and others that may be required for you



Professional



# Professional

- ? Become involved in professional organizations
- ? Draw from other job experiences
- ? Write professional correspondence to all professors, educators, and other contacts EVERY TIME. Maintain a professional rapport with all professors and educators.
- ? Maintain a professional persona on social media and the internet
- ? Maintain a professional rapport with your student colleagues. They will be your professional colleagues forever!

# Professional

- ? Plan your courses, summer classes, and summer plans (festivals, teaching at camps, others) early.
- ? Create a personal, professional website or portfolio
- ? Collect videos of your performance and teaching activities
- ? Collect interview questions online and from your professors
- ? 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

# Musician

- ? Continue suggestions above
- ? Check out/Rent a secondary instrument to practice. Choose another secondary instrument to work on.



Educator

# 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 application for Student Teacher Placement (and other paperwork)
- ? Register and complete your CPR and other certifications
- ? Challenge yourself. Take a course outside your discipline.



Professional



# Professional

- ? Continue suggestions above
- ? Update your resume, cover letter. Edit, edit, edit!
- ? Update your personal, professional website or portfolio
- ? Acquire professional attire for your student teaching experience
- ? Schedule a meeting with your cooperating teacher/Learn about your school
- ? Know how to obtain a copy of your official transcript and how much they cost.
- ? Begin contacting those that you would like to have serve as a reference for you.

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





Musician

# Musician

- ? Continue to make music!
- ? Attend musical performances (and rehearsals) of other ensembles
- ? Play/Sing in classes (especially beginner classes on instruments you are less familiar with!)



Educator

# Educator

## APPLY

- ? Jump in!
- ? Apply your previous knowledge and experiences
- ? Absorb the new strategies you are learning in the field.
- ? 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.

# Educator **ANALYZE**

- ? Document that inner monologue
- ? Separate Observation from Inference
- ? Gather all the things!

# Educator

## REFLECT

- ? Take time to reflect
- ? Once you have collected items from your cooperating teacher, find a time to ask questions about them and the choices that teacher made to create them.
- ? Be PROACTIVE—Not REACTIVE.
- ? Celebrate your progress daily!





Professional

# Professional

- ? “It’s a lot of work”
- ? “Take care of yourself—sleep, eat right, drink water, wash your hands”
- ? Ask to be introduced to campus administration, teachers, and staff. Do not be shy—reach out to them. Shows initiative.
- ? Speak to other teachers/staff in your building, district, and region. Get to know them!
- ? Role Identity
- ? Continue to be involved in professional organizations
- ? Continue building professional relationships



You have worked hard!

You have passed your juries!

You have taught lessons on methods instruments!

You have performed in countless ensembles!

You have assessed your colleagues' teaching episodes!

You have successfully completed your Student Teaching Experience!

Next stop:

**A Career in the  
BEST Profession!!**

**MUSIC EDUCATION**

# A Pep Talk—Kid President

SOULPANCAKE



Enjoy the Process!  
We are here for you!



Thank You!



American String Teachers Association