Pedagogical Statement

Before attending the Crane School of Music in Potsdam NY, I knew very little about teaching. I knew that it took a plethora of patience with students, as well as hours of planning but I never really understood what went on behind the scenes. MTL really helped me develop a better understanding of the necessary tools you need for successful teacher and student learning.

In a classroom the ideas of student self-learning, and self-assessment come from your curriculum and the interests of the student. The teacher is simply a guide not feeding the students answers or information however, question their knowledge for a fuller understanding of the material. This allows the student to think independently and collaborate with classmates to figure out a problem. In addition through this method you are covering basic 21st century skills such as, collaboration, problem solving and critical thinking.

If you open the "Teaching Toolbox" under my Music Education Journal you will see a graphic of basic elements students need to be successful in learning music. Then if you notice there is a "blank spot," "How can you BE the teacher and not just teach?" This question is something that as an undergraduate our 5th grade practicum group was concerned with. We didn't know the basics of teaching when we got here, and we are still are unsure of what is in store for us when we have to apply it to our classroom however, the knowledge gained over the years, observations and instruction here at Crane has allowed a better understanding of how students learn and the teachers role on their musical journey.

Applying you ideas and knowledge to the classroom can be quite challenging. However, there are some questions to keep in mind, How can we keep the students interests? What basic skills do the students need? What roles do the students play? What do I want the students to take from this musical experience? These questions will allow you to scaffold out a lesson plan, or curriculum that is coherent, relevant to the student and promote life long learning.