

Christopher M. Baumgartner – Equity Statement

Achieving equity in music education begins by removing barriers to learning, and providing all students with the tools necessary to reach their goals. One of my favorite quotes is that what is “fair is not equal.” That which one student needs to succeed may/will be different from the next, yet we (society) expect them both to reach the same goal. As a profession, we must continue to find ways to offer individualized paths to learning in music. Providing wide and varied resources to all students is imperative. From funding, to community involvement, to scheduling, there are numerous systemic differences that fuel inequity across our nation’s schools. As teachers, we must continue to learn how to recognize the barriers (as well as children’s individual needs) that prevent students from making meaningful strides in their educational endeavors. Proper education of, professional development of, and support/resources for teachers are essential in guiding music educators to offer more equitable experiences in their classrooms. The National Association for Music Education possesses enormous potential (and responsibility) in ensuring our teachers are prepared and continually supported. Only then can we begin to make headway toward a more just music classroom.