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ISM 3A

Mr. Speice

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Research Assessment 1

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"Elementary Music Teachers: Education Requirements and Career Info." *Study.com*. Web.05 Sept. 2016.

Assessment:

While careers vary in abilities, skills, education requirements, and many other topics, all are similar in one area: importance. Yes, some jobs that people hold may seem more important than others. For example, a surgeon specializing in brains, or a neurosurgeon, may seem to have a greater importance when compared to a waiter at a small town restaurant. Likewise, a well known, successful entrepreneur may be seen as 'higher' than an elementary school teacher. In order to recognize the importance of all careers, we must take a step back and look at careers on a broad scale, and with an open mind. We might not realize that the neurosurgeon was once a waiter in his hometown before he could afford to pay to go to a college that would offer the classes required to become a doctor. We would potentially overlook the idea that the entrepreneur mentioned earlier was inspired by his elementary teacher to follow his aspirations and to become a successful businessman. These thoughts influenced my statement that, while

some careers may be seen as ‘better’ than others, all occupations hold a great amount of importance.

Throughout the school year in being a member of the ISM program, I plan to follow the path to becoming a music teacher, focusing in elementary education. In one source, an elementary music teacher is described as “an individual with a zest for music that desires to impart his knowledge to today’s children.” A music teacher must be willing to assist students in all of their needs, whether it involves vocal coaching, playing an instrument, or concepts and basic musical theory. Because I have had multiple experiences working with elementary age students in areas including music, holding a career in which I would have the opportunity to do this every day excites me, and I am thrilled to be able to study this field throughout this year. From prior knowledge, I have learned that a music teacher must be kind, accepting, and willing to work with students of all ages. In having the opportunity to shadow a mentor, I hope to gain more experience in what it means to resolve issues in the classroom, as well as how to interact with students and set boundaries for various behaviors. In order to become an elementary music teacher, I will be required to have a Bachelor’s degree, as well as student teaching experience, followed by a certificate or license for public school teachers. I will most likely be required to have a minor in music. Aside from this, courses such as child development are recommended. Although I am not enrolled in child development currently, after discussing my plans with a school counselor, I learned that being in the ISM program and being able to shadow a mentor will provide the same experience in my multiple opportunities to interact with students in a classroom setting.

Often times in school, students will hear teachers make short, witty jokes about having only a small salary, or be asked to help provide individual school supplies for the same reason. After my research, I discovered that as of 2015, the average annual salary for elementary school teachers was around \$57,000 to \$58,000. Further research provided me with the knowledge that similar careers such as elementary education in core subjects, elementary special education, and other fine arts in the elementary field receive a similar salary.

Although this salary is much lower than others received by individuals in professions such as health care, I intend to overlook this small limiting factor, and to look more closely at what it means to be a teacher for young children, and the opportunities that could potentially come with this.

Job opportunities are frequently opening and closing, whether we realize it or not. Varying situations in the economy may act as a determining factor in this. With some recent changes, it seems that some programs may begin to be cut from the current district curriculum. Although this is the case in the Frisco school district, it may not be so in other areas. Multiple elementary schools are bound to be searching for individuals with experience to fill the position of music teacher, especially with an increase in the number of children being enrolled in elementary school. This causes the need for more schools to be built, leading to an increase in opportunities to find the appropriate establishment for myself.

From my research, I have learned that there is some terminology that relates to music teaching. For example, a music teacher must know about, as well as how to demonstrate, the meaning of rhythm, beat, and pitch. Although these three terms have very different meanings, one can not be used successfully without the other two working alongside it. My newfound

information based on the facts and statistics related to this career have provided me with a foundation on which I can build my thoughts on the career path that I am following. Although I still have much to learn on how to function in a classroom setting, I am hopeful and optimistic that I will have a multitude of opportunities to exercise and expand my knowledge.

Article:

Elementary Music Teachers: Education Requirements and Career Info

An individual with a zest for music that desires to impart his knowledge to today's children should consider a career as an elementary music teacher. Teaching students to play instruments, how to sing, and about music history are among the numerous duties of a music teacher. A bachelor's degree in music education or elementary education with a music minor is favored for most jobs; a license and certification are required to teach in a public school.

Essential Information

Elementary music teachers work with children in kindergarten through fifth grade to enrich their knowledge in the world of music. Like all teachers, elementary music teachers are responsible for creating lesson plans for classroom instruction, administering tests and assigning homework and projects to students. Professionals in this field may complete a bachelor's in music education or a bachelor's in elementary education with a music minor, as well as gain certification through their state.

Required Education	Bachelor's degree, including student teaching experience
Other Requirements	Certificate/license for public school teachers
Projected Job Growth (2014-2024)*	6% (for all elementary school teachers, except special education)
Average Salary (2015)*	\$57,730 annually (for elementary school teachers, except special education)

*Source: *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)*

Elementary Music Teacher Job Description

Elementary music teachers are responsible for providing an introduction to technical musical concepts such as beat, rhythm and pitch to primary school students. They expose students to musical scales, musical notation, the art of singing, different types of musical instruments and different styles of music. Elementary school music teachers also teach students about the history

of music, as well as introducing them to the music of many legendary musicians and composers. Additionally, a music teacher may be required to prepare students for public performances, as the director of a school band or chorus, and give private or group music lessons.

Education Requirements

All states require teachers to hold a teaching certificate and to be licensed, if they wish to teach in a public school. Those interested in teaching music in an elementary school must be certified in elementary education and elementary music education. A Bachelor of Arts in Music Education is preferred; however, a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education with a minor in music may be satisfactory.

During a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education program, students might take classes on such topics as music literature, music history, child development, applied instruction and elementary music methods. Those who wish to conduct student orchestras and choirs may take courses on ensembles, voice methods, string methods, and conducting. Elective courses in music education might include music technology, music for special needs, and jazz studies.

Meanwhile, a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education will give students in-depth instruction on different teaching strategies, child and adolescent development, and education technology. Elementary education majors interested in teaching music will be required to take additional music-related courses, which may include music theory, composition, music history, and music performance. Since proficiency in at least one musical instrument is also a prerequisite, participation in an orchestra, band, or chorus is also advised.

As an elementary music teacher, your job is to educate children on the history and theory of music, perform school concerts, and various other activities. To do this, you will likely need a B.A. in music education or elementary education with music as a minor; both teach different yet important music topics. Elementary teaching jobs are all continuing to grow at a 6% rate according to the BLS, so this could be a career with a future.