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Mr. Speice

ISM 3A

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More Tours

Weekly Report 4/4 - 4/10

This week in ISM, students continued to work on assignments and sections of our final products, preparing for the end of the year Final Presentation Night. Speeches for FPN also began this week, which will take a great amount of preparation and practice, especially as I plan on rewriting my speech with a new focus on my ISM story, and the journey that I have been able to experience through the program in order to get to where I am now. As I have been thinking through the way that I will outline my final speech, I have continuously reflected on my personal journey throughout the program, and have begun to apply what I have learned to factors outside of ISM, Reedy High School, and even the Frisco Independent School District. For example, over the extent of this past weekend, I had the opportunity to participate in a college preview visit at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. While this school might not be world renowned or well known, it provides a very strong music education program, as well as a supportive campus with staff and students who create a community and family environment, rather than functioning only as individual members of a college. Through this visit, I was able to meet many students who were following the same major plan as I will, as well as discuss my plans with professors who will be instructing many of my classes. This allowed me to see where

the areas that I have researched in ISM will become useful in increasing my overall understanding of the music education program. Aside from meeting many helpful people, I also had the opportunity to attend two courses that will be provided in the music ed. course. First, I attended a Music Theory I class, which provides a basic understanding of the ways in which music is composed, and the ways that chords, as well as the many other aspects of a composition, fit and work together. This course was very helpful as it allowed me to see what I will be learning in the music department. The second class that I was able to visit was an education class called Differentiated Learning. I enjoyed this class much more than the theory class, as the information was very interesting and engaging, focusing on child development, theories, and learning disabilities. Because I have had the opportunity to perform extensive research on these topics throughout the year, I was able to better understand the topic and the class as a whole, creating an environment where I felt that I could fit in and learn crucial information for becoming a teacher.

Upon completing this college visit, I have realized the extent that my participation in ISM has influenced and benefited me. I have been able to gain knowledge on topics of my career choice that would not typically have been covered or discussed until my college years. I have had the opportunity to observe classrooms and work directly with elementary students in a music classroom, which typically would not be an option until receiving an internship opportunity during my junior or senior year in college. Because of these experiences that I have already been able to have, I continuously have the realization that, despite the challenges and moments of stress that it presents, the ISM program has truly been a blessing in my life.