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ISM 3A

24 April 2017

Decisions, Decisions

Weekly Report 4/18 - 4/24

This week in ISM, just as the past few weeks have been, students in the program were focused mainly on preparing for Final Presentation Night, which will take place in almost exactly one month. Many factors have to go into our FPN, meaning that we have been preparing different things such as invitations, speeches, and products, while at the same time continuing our mentorships for our chosen topics, and balancing other schoolwork and outside activities. Although this may sound very stressful (and sometimes, it is), work for ISM typically has a way of not feeling like work. I have come to think of ISM as a privilege, something that I GET to do, rather than something that I HAVE to do. Because of this outlook, the workload and seemingly endless hours begin to seem more fun than they did in the beginning of the year. Although I have many assignments on my plate right now, the ISM program has continuously helped me to learn how to better balance my stressors, so that they have a much lesser impact on me.

As the last weeks of the second semester of my junior year begin to draw nearer, I have also begun to experience a common theme in my life: making decisions. While I have experienced many simple decisions, such as what to wear, what to eat, etc., I have also begun to face decisions that present themselves as challenges. The best example of this at this time is

beginning to think about colleges. Thus far, I have been on six college tours, with the seventh coming up on Wednesday. Although I realize that I still have my senior year to think about making my final college decision, I will have to begin the audition process to each school if I am hoping to be accepted into the music school, so that I can study Music Ed. Because of this earlier process, I have begun to think about my decisions now, so that I can be prepared to audition at my top choices of schools when fall comes.

Although I decided not to continue in the ISM program with ISM 2, I have ultimately decided that my topic of study, Elementary Music Education, is the correct career choice for me. The program and independent research that it entails has allowed me to better understand the field itself, and the mentorship has helped me to gain personal knowledge about the strong relationships that are formed between music teachers and their students. Because this program has had a lasting impact on me, one decision that I am completely sure of is that I will continue to study and expand my passion for elementary music education.