

A good music lesson from the students' perspective – An interview survey with students from German International Schools in Canada.

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Abstract

Many educationalists as well as music educationalists are concerned with the question what makes a music lesson a good lesson. For me as a future music teacher, the main interest of this survey was to show how students evaluate the topic, what their expectations and criteria for a good music lesson include.

The empiric part of this master's dissertation is based on the results of an interview survey that was held with students from German International Schools in Canada. The analysis showed that students enjoy music in general, but the subject has no high significance in comparison to other school subjects. The content of the music lessons should be practical as well as fun, interesting, exciting and activating. Some students also consider unpopular content like music theory necessary and important. Activities like singing or making music were normally seen as positive.

When we look on the different methods, the results show the students' positive view on teamwork. Working with the textbook or written exercises as well as the teacher lecturing are considered negative aspects by the students. However, each method used is evaluated differently by the students according to the way it is put into practice, which is explained further in this Master's dissertation.

The teacher should have professional and pedagogical competences and should be kind but still take drastic action when needed. The survey also showed that students reject favouritism and overtaxing. Moreover, the interviewees pointed out that even when they are not getting along with a teacher, the lesson can be good anyway.

From the students point of view, disturbances of the lesson are more common when the class isn't good and the students lose interest. Numerous of disruption even disturb the students and they see them as a negative thing. Although students consider variation of the content and the methods of a lesson as well as fun very important, they acknowledge that having fun is only as important as the content of the lesson and the fact that they are learning something. If both, having fun and learning, is found in a music lesson, we can speak of a good lesson.