

Dr. Evelyn Moria Tunison

As an educator, I strive to help my students succeed and to create individualized, accessible music education that encourages and supports my students. This is my goal whether I am teaching in the individual, studio, or classroom setting.

I believe that teaching should be personalized to the individual student while overall nurturing students' love of music and giving them the fundamentals that they need as clarinetists and musicians. Every student learns in a different way and has their own unique interests in music. Therefore, having an individual connection with each student allows me to tailor my teaching to them, making that instruction more accessible by knowing how the student learns best and nurturing their love of music by selecting pieces that will not only challenge them but engage them. For example, I have a student who loves jazz clarinet and I always incorporate at least one piece a semester that has jazz influences but still challenges them and exposes them to a wide variety of music. Regardless of students' majors or skill level, I strive to teach my students the fundamentals of the clarinet that they need to know as well as providing individualized repertoire that helps them become better musicians through music that they enjoy playing. This way, students can maintain their love of music while I help them grow their musical and technical capabilities on the clarinet.

In the larger classroom setting, establishing a connection with each student lets the students feel valued and creates a supportive community environment. My background experiences and degrees in music education and performance helps me to create individualized and accessible instruction for students in this setting by combining my knowledge of classroom teaching and differentiated learning styles with my performance pedagogy knowledge. Having experience teaching younger students, ensembles, and woodwind methods has also given me a chance to further hone my instructional techniques including being able to reword or re-explain a concept, providing various visual, aural, and other examples of a concept to ensure students will fully grasp that concept, and learning how to engage students.

I assess my students on a continual basis, judging if there has been effort applied and improvement or attainment of a concept. In the studio and ensemble setting, I assess students based on not only performances, but also on the weekly lesson or rehearsal, always checking to make sure the students understand the concepts. For the classroom setting, I assess students not only through the traditional tests, but also in discussions and with directed questions to check that the students understand and are working towards attainment of the concepts being taught.

My experiences in music education and performance allow me to help my students succeed not only inside the classroom, but outside of the classroom as well. I am able to give students real world advice and guide them in how best to advance their careers, whether those careers are in education or performance. For students who are not majoring in music, I aim to help them develop a love of music and a better understanding of the subject. I use my diverse musical background to help reach these students and encourage a new view of music and what they can accomplish on their instrument.