

NOTES

Pinecrest Academy Inspirada Conservatory of Music

On January 15, 2022, I had the wonderful opportunity to speak with Dr. Charles Maguire, the Director of the Music Conservatory at Pinecrest Academy Inspirada located in Henderson, NV. The students who attend are very similar to Upper St. Clair students so the Music Conservatory has become quite a prestigious offering and parents are clamoring to get their students enrolled in the program.

Inspirada grew the Music Conservatory by providing music classes when their MYP Core teachers are in their group planning period. In this way, students are able to participate without scheduling issues.

Another facet of the program is that in addition to their daily ensemble class, every student also gets a weekly private lesson. This has been accomplished by hiring para-professional faculty to teach the students and of course, this makes an incredible impact on their level of achievement. Large numbers of their students are selected for Honor Band, Choirs and Orchestras.

Part of any conservatory curriculum is to perform juries--that is, to "stand and deliver" in front of instructors who adjudicate the student on the performance. Both John and I will tell you that this is completely nerve-racking, but only because we were not exposed to this until we attended college. By starting at this level, students learn quickly that this is just what the expectation thus the performances become more and more enjoyable as students shed their stage fright as a result of the increased exposure to these types of experiences and situations.

All of the students at Inspirada are expected to have their own instrument and bring it to school daily. Many parents rent instruments for their children but most purchase an instrument so that the student has his very own. As we know, when parents invest in an instrument, they are more likely to encourage their students to continue. Inspirada has a wonderful "practice routine" where the students learn to critique themselves and their peers. It would be worth hearing more about this routine from Dr. Maguire himself when the time is right. This is exactly the way students should learn and grow in a music environment. It's something we would wish for all of our students whether they are in music or not.

Inspirada charges a fee to participate in the program and that runs \$150 annually which parents are happy to cover. Not only does it add more credibility to the program, it enables the Conservatory to hire para-professional staff to provide private lessons. I'm sure that this would not be a problem for the families in your district either.

Let me know if you would like to discuss any of this further or if you would like for me to set up a Zoom meeting with you and Dr. Maguire. You would so enjoy learning about his program.