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Write one example of how you meet each of the following criteria:

• **A creative thinker committed to learning and growing professionally.**

I believe all students should have access to a quality music education, and my job as a music educator is to remove those barriers and create opportunities for students to learn more about their own creative processes through music. As such, my career goal is to expand the definition of what a quality music education is and can be, which is far beyond the traditional Bands and Orchestras that were common when I was in school, by innovating and reimagining music education itself and the way students engage with music in their lives.

• **Empathy for the learner in a changing context for learning.**

I grew up in a military family, changing schools every year of my life until high school. As a result, I was often told things like “since you didn’t join band in 6th grade, you cannot join band now”. This has informed my approach and philosophy as an educator, in that I always encourage students to grow from where they are now, not where they should be. Simultaneously, I know that often students require remediation in one area, yet excel in others; I have seen the importance in assessing students on both their strengths as well as areas of improvement.

• **Capacity to design engaging learning experiences that promote deep learning and reflect an emphasis on building learner agency.**

Many of the courses I have taught in my career so far were developed from scratch in collaboration with students. I have seen the power of student-lead inquiry and the capacity for students to imagine creative projects that best exhibit the skills I seek to assess in them. I believe that by encouraging students to invest themselves into their own education, they are not only more interested, but they also learn about the importance of their own

agency as active learners within the learning process. The purpose of education is for students to learn how to be lifelong learners.

- **Deep understanding of the contemporary changes in schools and higher education.**

Schools are, or at least they should be, a reflection of the world, the culture, and the values in which its participants live. The world is an increasingly global and interconnected place. I feel international schools are well-positioned to change the world for the better. There is strength in diversity, and the diversity of any given international school population is one of its greatest advantages. I feel embracing that diversity of thought and experience by encouraging students to share with one another creates a unique learning environment that can't be synthesized under more homogenous circumstances.

NOTE: Each example should be no more than 100 words.