

My husband I consistently attend drum lessons with our son, Tommy, and have been impressed by the instruction Steve has provided. Tommy is a 12 year old seventh grader and has been taking drum lessons from Steve for approximately a year and a half. Tommy began playing bells in fifth grade band and is currently playing for the Westside Middle School Jazz Band.

Steve sets the bar high for his students and expects them to do their best during lessons. He has a great "read" on Tommy and is able to tune into what and how he is feeling about his work during lessons. Steve has a great ability to know when to push Tommy further and when he might be struggling, and help him work through a challenging piece. I like how Steve sometimes has jam sessions with Tommy, and then pauses to paint a vision with him of how his continued hard work can lead to greatness in his school and/professional music endeavors.

It is very obvious that Steve is proud of his work and appreciates his gift of music. Not only is he an extraordinary artist but he is also an incredible technician. Steve and Tommy share a mutual respect and reciprocate hard work during lessons. Steve is an amazing producer of music and also has an uncanny ability to mold and shape the abilities of young, and hopefully lifetime musicians. Steve is constantly providing Tommy with words of wisdom and feedback that can be applied not only to music but to any challenge that may come his way. Over the course of Tommy's lessons he has gained the skills and confidence to tackle any rhythm presented by Steve. At home when he practices, rather than become discouraged by a piece, Tommy will work it out. I will watch and listen to Tommy methodically, slow down, take a rhythm apart, and eventually put it all together and succeed.

Prior to writing this, I asked Tommy what he thought of Steve as a drum teacher and he responded, "Steve's not just my drum teacher, he's a part of my life". An excellent summary. It's the truth. Steve really cares about his students and not only has great hopes for them to become accomplished musicians, but also well rounded successful individuals.