What is Curriculum?

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What is a curriculum?

- A curriculum is a plan for learning
- A curriculum begins with a philosophy about the purpose of education
- Values stated in philosophy lead to goals
- Goals lead to a design for implementation and evaluation

Ralph Tyler (1949, p. 1) stated four fundamental questions:

- What educational purposes should the school seek to attain?
- What educational experiences can be provided that are likely to attain these purposes?
- How can these educational experiences be effectively organized?
- How can we determine whether these purposes are being attained?

What is the purpose of education?

- To continue “our” culture/society (Enculturation)
- To improve “our” culture/society
- To change “our” culture/society (Acculturation)
Liberal Education

- **Why**
  - We preserve the heritage and thought of Western civilization
- **What**
  - The Classics
- **How**
  - Teacher-centered transmission of knowledge
  - Reasoning

Scientific Curriculum (Practical Education)

- **Why**
  - Students need skills for adult life
- **What**
  - Skills needed by society (economy)
- **How**
  - State objectives and procedures
  - Measure the product (achievement)

Developmental Approach

- **Why**
  - Develop the individual
- **What**
  - Interests and needs of the learner
- **How**
  - Provide interesting environment
  - Process of maturation, meaning-making and judgment
Critical Theorists (Social Meliorists)

- Why
  - Schooling can bring about social change and justice
- What
  - Abuses of power toward minorities, poor, women
- How
  - Develop actions to address inequities

The Fours C's (Ann Lieberman)

- Process of change
- Culture of schools
- Context of classroom
- Content of curriculum

What is the purpose of education?

- To help students reach their current and future potential
- In their current and future cultural settings
- So that they may in turn, affect (good) on future society and individuals

How does the study of music uniquely contribute to the purpose of education?

What does the study of music do for the development of individuals (and society) that the study of other subjects cannot do?

To be answered in your final project