

Tips for Building and Directing Quality Orchestra Programs

(Thursday, January 26th, 2012 – 10:00am-11:00am Room 101)

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SESSION INFORMATION:

This clinic will highlight tips and suggestions for starting, developing and maintaining quality orchestra programs at all levels. Recruiting guidelines, instruction strategies and programming suggestions will be presented as means for developing outstanding middle and high school orchestras

- What is your (CMENC members) #1 concern/question?
- Teacher Preparation
- Before your First Day of School/Teaching

I. To Develop and Maintain Quality Programs

- 1) Have passion for teaching
- 2) Establish positive communication
- 3) Strive towards Excellence/Professional Development
- 4) Acquire organizational skills
- 5) Establish working relationship with your colleagues
- 6) Understand school administrators
- 7) Follow school rules/Duties and responsibilities -- Be PROFESSIONAL!
(If you do not follow school rules, you cannot expect your students to follow school AND classroom rules)

II. To Strengthen the Program

- 1) Emphasizing "Quality"
- 2) Emphasizing Fundamentals:
 - a) Posture/proper playing form-technique
 - b) Tone ("beautiful sound")
 - c) Pitch accuracy
 - d) Rhythm/Rhythm/Rhythm!!!
 - e) Musicianship
- 2) Guiding/Teaching Students to become independent thinkers/learners

3) Setting HIGHEST Standards

4) Utilizing Available Resources

- a) Parents
- b) Colleagues/Professionals
- c) Students
- d) Media Center
- e) OTHERS

4) Teaching students to become successful --“Guideline for Success”

III. To Build the Program

“If you have a “quality program,” your program will likely grow in numbers. The kids/parents will want to be associated with the ‘success.’ But some students don’t care about that. They just want to be involved in your program, because it is “FUN.” Here are some tips:

- 1) Recruitment
- 2) Cluster school involvement
- 3) Community involvement
- 4) Unique Orchestral/Band Activities

Important Question:

- “Do you love music and working with children?”
 - Yes!
 - Maybe....
 - Not really....

***BOTTOM LINE:**

In order to become an effective music teacher, you must “eventually” love students and music. I believe that without the love for music and working with students, we may eventually burn out --especially when we have to deal with adverse situations—such as being in a difficult teaching environment/situation, dealing with difficult parents, colleagues, students, and administrators, etc.....

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