

Tips and Techniques for Your Beginning Students

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Choose your own adventure...

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Instrumentation

Flute - 8%

Clarinet - 30%

Alto Saxophone - 8%

Tenor Saxophone - 2%

Trumpet - 25%

Trombone - 20%

Percussion - 7%

The first rule of band is...
SOUND GOOD!

Levels of Musicality:

- 1 – Characteristic Tone**
- 2 – Correct Rhythms**
- 3 – Accurate Notes**
- 4 – Detailed Articulations**
- 5 – Appropriate Dynamics**
- 6— Emotional Phrasing**

I. Band Learning Standards:

- Individual Performance
 - Tone
 - Rhythm
 - Note Accuracy
 - Articulation
 - Dynamics
 - Pulse
 - Style
 - Phrasing
 - Grip (percussion only)
 - Sticking (percussion only)
 - Position & Posture
- Group Performance
 - Attendance
 - Concert Etiquette
 - Proper Supplies
- Performance Critique
 - Quality Assessment
 - Goal Setting
 - Levels of Musicality
- Rehearsal Habits
 - Engagement
 - Rehearsal Technique

Standards Assessment

Mastering	10 pts.
Approaching	8-9 pts.
Progressing	6-7 pts.
Inconsistent	5 pts.
No Evidence	0 pts.

*Modified to fit the traditional A-F Grading System

Rick Wormeli Original Standard Scoring	
Mastery -	4
Approaching -	3
Progressing -	2
Inconsistent -	1
(No evidence) -	0

V. Behavior Expectations

- Students should:
 1. Follow directions quickly
 2. Raise hand for permission to speak out loud
 3. Keep hands to themselves
 4. Be respectful and courteous to classmates/teachers
 5. Arrive to class prepared

- The following steps will be used to deal with violations of behavior expectations:
 1. Warning
 2. Conference with student and director(s) to develop a plan for solving the problem.
 3. Consequence appropriate to the behavior or action in question & contact parents.
 4. Referral to principal, school resource officer or counselor
 5. Suspension and/or dismissal from band.

Words matter...

Hard - unfamiliar

Tight - firm

More - different

Can't - Not Yet

Cover - Stretch

Loose - relaxed

Choices matter....

Abstract vs Concrete

Tone vs Technique

Rhythms vs Notes

Reflection vs Rote

Experience Appropriate

Woodwinds

Flute - Picking it up is the hardest - but
after that, they will be fine!

More (air) is never the
right word - different!!

Clarinet - Do not say “bottom teeth”....ever
Firmer (not tighter) is better
Only adjust extremes - unless tone is affected

Saxophone - Do not say “bottom
teeth”....ever

Relaxed (not loose) is GOOD!

(So is Flat - with a good sound)

Must be perpendicular - no bulldog jaw

Leather ligs and
spongy neckstraps



BRASS

Pacing - Do not be afraid to adjust

Position and Posture - demonstrate, make examples of students, refer to pics

Daily Doses - long tones, lip slurs, rhythm work, buzzing, singing

[Brass Teaching Materials](#)

Reaching higher notes - 3 elements (airstream, tongue position, aperture)

[Higher notes video](#)

Listening examples - Students must know what great brass players sound like

BRASS

YouTube - [Mr. Glynn](#) [Dr Selfridge](#) Ted Talks

Teach them how to practice - [How to practice effectively](#)

Why? Because being good is not magic, it takes work! [Fun - Good - Work](#)

20 minute practice session example (in the beginning, practice sessions should only be about 5 - 10 minutes)

1. Warm-up
2. Review
3. Work
4. Fun

Spreadsheets are our friend!

[WW and PERC part assignments](#)

Percussion within the WW/Brass Class

Processes = Training
Equipment...Mark it
Mini Lessons
Rotation on implements
They can talk
Write beats for warm up

“Sticks in one hand!”

Seeing is believing
They have a stupid hand
Play not hit
Timpani - they can!!
Patience - must have payoff

Can YOU do it - have you even tried?

Technique in Rehearsal

Beginners (6th grade) are very pliable and don't know hard/easy yet

6th graders are more discerning than you think - they can smell "BS"

Always prepare for the next level

Keep it experience appropriate, forcing techniques creates bad habits

Have them do it "wrong" - to "feel" what is right

Do not perform rhythms in front of them, cover your mouth

Pads and 'Hacking' - you should not hear it

High notes - cold and tall

Eliminate jaw movement - use free hand to "feel" the jaw move

3M mpc patch (thin clear ones) - stability!

THANK YOU!!

We are honored you took the time to come hear about our teaching.

Please feel free to call or email anytime. We love to share!

Make plans to go shadow another teacher. It is the best way to learn new things!

Enjoy the rest of your summer!