Middle School Band
Rehearsal Lab

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North Middle School Band, Brittany Ford

Thanks to Brittany Ford & the North Middle School Band!

In this Clinic

☐ No Magic Bullets ☺ this is just what I do!
☐ Rehearsal Set up & Management
☐ Warm up options
☐ Rehearsal tips and techniques
☐ You get to hear a fantastic young band!

Hayes Band Program - 2004

☐ Currently 188 Students
☐ 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Bands
  ☐ 8th, 7th & 6th Grade, 2 classes
  ☐ 1st semester
    ☐ Beginning Band/Percussion & Intermediate classes
  ☐ 2nd semester
    ☐ Percussion Class/All Winds
☐ 50 minute daily classes
☐ Students participate in County Honors Band, Solo & Ensemble
☐ After School Jazz Program

Daily Routine

☐ I am a firm believer in organization and routine with young Bands – when my students walk into the room this is what they see...
Class PowerPoint

- Link to countdown timer
- Link to current performance selections on our class website
  - We listen to everything we are performing (after 1st sight-read)
- Rehearsal order for the day
- Weekly goals
- Special announcements
- Slide for just about everything..

Key Signature & Concert Pitch Groups

- **C Group**: (concert pitch) Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, Mallet Percussion
- **Bb Group**: (up 1 step from concert pitch) Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet, TC Baritone
- **F Group**: (up 5 steps from concert pitch) French Horn
- **Eb Group**: (up 6 steps from concert pitch) Alto Sax, Baritone Sax

Warm up Options

- Scale Preps for Beginning Band
  - Each Key (Bb, Eb & F) on a different color paper
- Great Warm ups for Young Bands
  - 1st page only for 6th, 7th Grade has a laminated original copy in folder
- Great Warm ups for Advancing Bands
  - 8th Grade has a laminated original Copy in folder

More Warm up options

- Bach and Before Chorales
  - Class Set
- Foundations for Superior Performance
  - Class Set
- 101 Rhythmic Rest Patterns
  - Class Set

More Warm up Options

- Some things I have purchased and anxious to use!
  - Tone Builders 1 & 2 Curnow

Class Set Book Storage..
Tuning
- Teach the students what in tune and out of tune sounds like
- Keep it simple...
  - What do you hear? Waves... Fast or slow, make an adjustment, if it is worse go the other way.
  - We do discuss flat & sharp and how to adjust instrument
  - Working towards knowledge of pitch tendencies for particular notes and specific instruments.
- Drone
- Amplified Harmony Director Keyboard
- Class Set of Korg Tuners
- Teach the students to use them and let them do it!

Book Work - Technique
- 6th Grade Accent on Achievement Book 1
- 7th Grade Standard of Excellence Book 2
- 8th Grade Strictly Technique

From the Books & Teachers Manuals
- Theory Exercises
  - SOE Teacher’s Manuals offer some great opportunities
  - The new Excellence in Theory Books look very promising!
- Rhythm Studies
  - Most books have rhythm charts in the back
- Scale Studies
  - Most books have some great scale studies

Other Materials in student folders
- Fingering Charts
- Key Signature Charts
- Binder Tab

Rehearsal Techniques
- Watching - use a scale... love to do this on Concert Warm ups!
  - Tempo & tempo changes
  - Style & Dynamics
  - Downbeats
- Silent practice or “tizzle” with amplified metronome
  - I like to use this to give instructions while they are watching the music.
- Syllables for clean articulation
  - I use "Doo, Dah, Dit, Dop" for Legato, Accent, Staccato, Marcato
- Always have others doing something when small groups are playing (Listening, silent practicing...)
- Don’t forget about the Percussion
- Have them playing and engaged as much as possible.
  - Percussion Assignment Chart – (from SOE Teachers Manual)
- Attacks only for ensemble precision in slower passages

More Rehearsal Techniques
- Counting Rhythms
  - Use an amplified metronome for accuracy
  - Even on eight note/eight rest patterns
- I use a dash when counting rhythms that last longer than 1 beat
- I like to have students finger the notes as they are counting
- Singing
  - No one can look at anyone 😊 – keep it simple for younger bands.
Even More...
- I count the band off!
  - For young groups so they can play in time – no count off when they are mature enough. They always get a warning...
- I am a talker
- I sing and play for the students
- I record my groups and play it back for them..

Posture & Horn Position
- Constant reinforcement
  - Feet Flat
  - Butt on the edge of the chair
  - Back straight
  - Head Up
- Rest/Ready position for All
- Drop it rule for Percussion... 😊

West Highlands Sojourn, Robert Sheldon
- Stow-On-Wold
- Bradford Ballade

Questions?
- Remember the Lois Wiggins Rule: If I want it – I teach it!
- Thanks for coming and again let’s Congratulation Ms. Brittany Ford and the North Middle School Band!
Everything that you want you must TEACH!
• If you want it teach it. If you want it to become a habit you must constantly reinforce it.

Mutual Respect
• Teacher to Student, Student to Teacher, Student to Student and Teacher to Teacher

Routine and Consistency
• Very Clear and deliberate instructions

Rehearsal Expectations
• Quiet
• Effort
• Concentration and Focus

Basics
• Great Posture and Horn Position
• Good Characteristic Sounds
• How to listen and tune
• Solid Rhythm and Pulse

Tools
• Appropriate Warm ups
• Great Music
• Good Equipment that is well-maintained

Order and Organization
• Daily Agenda
• Percussion Assignments
• Accountability for the above

It is a Process!
• Establishing what you want takes time and deliberate effort and CANNOT be skipped. This might mean that you don’t get as far in the music or the book. The long term payoff is an ensemble that knows what is expected of them and knows how to rehearse for success.

Results
• Focused productive rehearsals
• Students who want to be there
• Great Ensembles

“Preventative Maintenance is a schedule of planned maintenance actions aimed at the prevention of breakdowns and failures.”