

Trust the Process:
An Elementary Band Program with the Future in Mind

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Performing Ensemble: The Grand Island Elementary 4th and 5th Grade Band

Opening: *Champion Fanfare*
David Samuel
Excelcia Music Publishing, LLC

I. Recruitment

- a. Officially begins in March of the 3rd grade year; however several demonstrations and concerts are given throughout the year for the entire school
- b. Every 3rd grader is contacted. Any students who are new to the district in the Fall are given supplemental recruitment materials
- c. Highly involved process that garners input from classroom teachers, general music teachers, and the IMMA test
- d. Students are placed on one of their top three choices (one choice must be from clarinet, trumpet, trombone, violin, and viola)

II. In the Beginning

- a. Start in 4th grade – tone is everything!
- b. Balance of instrumentation is set from the first year
- c. Large ensemble experience as early as the last week of October
 - i. Rehearsal technique and expectations are most important
 - ii. Balance and blend are critical at the beginning stages
 - iii. Rehearsal decorum - Protocol for rehearsals are set within this timeframe – Realistic expectations for rehearsing 9 and 10 year olds
- d. First concert is the 2nd week of December
 - i. Showcases both beginning bands with selections from the lesson book
 - ii. Ends with combined “mega band” piece that is quite simple

V. Retention

- a. Always in the back of our minds - What are we going to do/say today that will make them want to come back tomorrow?
- b. Underlying philosophy- **SUCCESS BREEDS SUCCESS**. Students who feel successful and accomplished are more likely to continue their instrumental studies
- c. "Hooks"
 - i. Jazz Ensemble – All instruments welcome!
 - ii. Opportunities to try "color" instruments – tenor sax, bass clarinet, baritone, bassoon
 - iii. Concerts! As many as possible within our schedule/ability level
 - iv. Utilizing county and state solo festivals for intrinsic motivation
 - v. Summer Lesson program - 5 private lessons (½ hour each) with a teacher from the Grand Island Music Department
 - vi. Pop Music? Yes! Make it educationally and musically valuable by creating musical moments within the piece

Demonstration of: *Any Way You Want It*
 Neal Schon and Steve Perry/arr. Michael Story
 Alfred Publishing (Belwin Division)

vii. YOUR Personality

1. What makes you unique?
2. We all love music, and to pass that love on to the next generation is the greatest gift!

VI. Questions

For additional resources and supplemental materials, please visit our website at:

www.grandislandschools.org/page/11115

Thank you for your attendance at today's clinic. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact either of us at any time!