

Making Your High School A Complete Orchestra Program

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Questions to ask...

- What are the qualities of a successful music program?
- What exactly are you trying to accomplish?
- What is the ultimate goal?
- What are your strengths? Weaknesses?
- Where do you see your program in a year? 5 years? 10 years? Make plans!

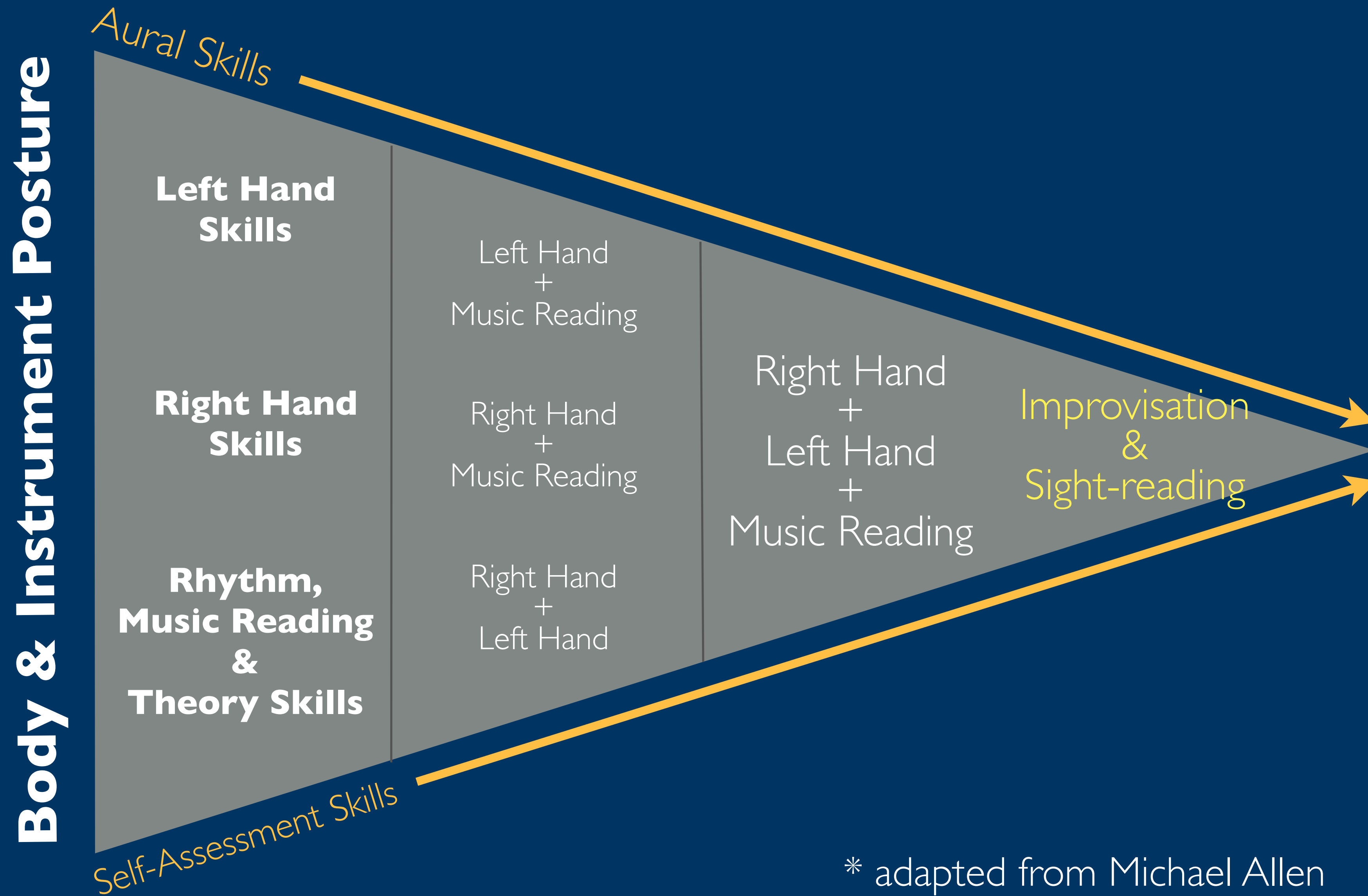
Successful music programs...

- High musical standards & execution
- A variety of musical & social experiences
- A large number of ACTIVE participants
- Students taking private lessons
- Students involved in “extras,” such as youth orchestras, solo & ensemble, camps, etc.
- A strong parent organization
- Community and administrative support
- A great sense of pride and ownership

Curriculum

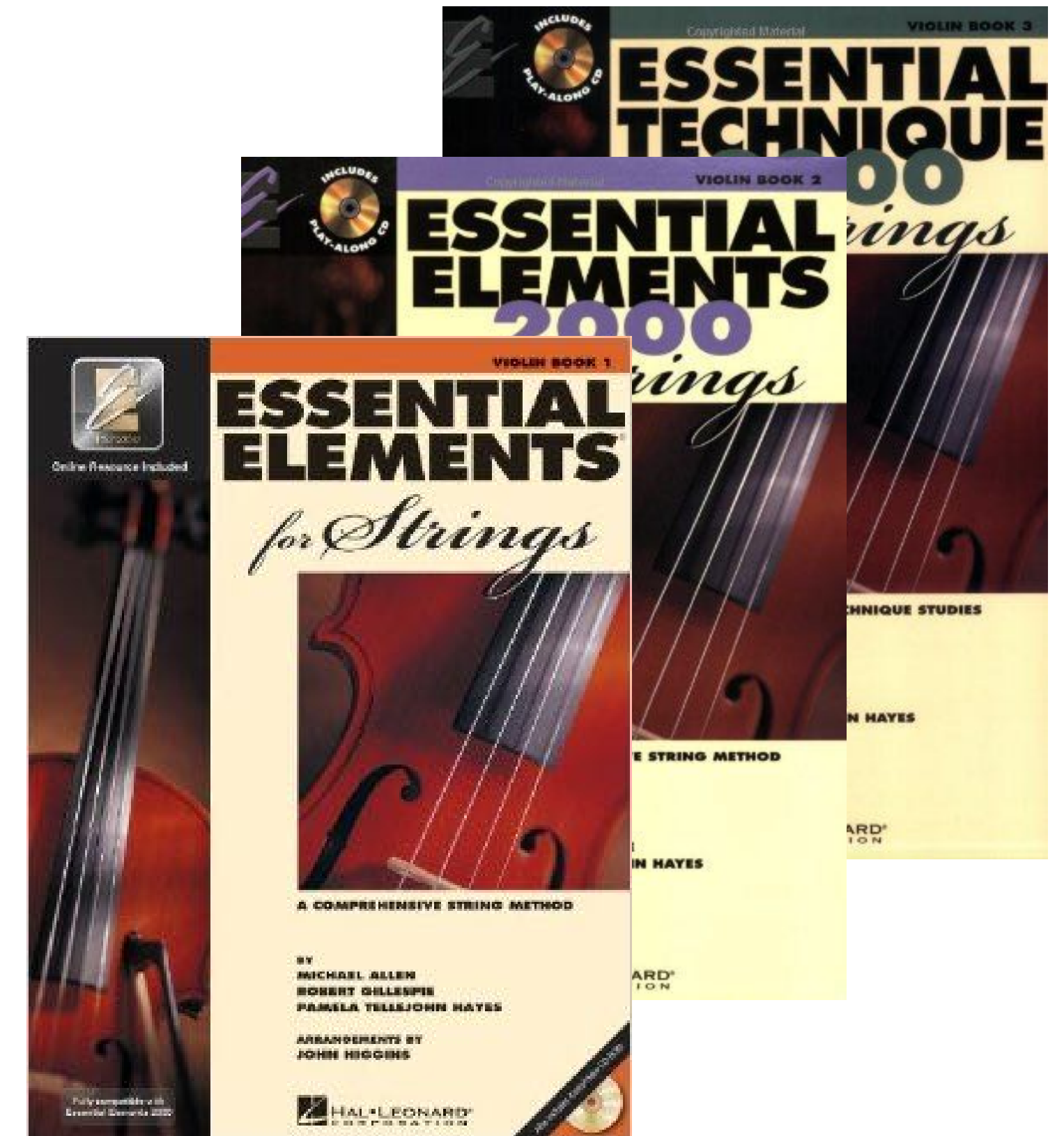
- What is a curriculum?
- Why even have a curriculum?
- What does a quality curriculum encompass?

String Pedagogy Sequence



Revisit Your Curriculum

- Method book #1
- Method book #2
- Technique Book (book #3)
- Advanced Technique Book
- Sight-reading materials
- Chamber Music
- Other Supplements (Rhythms, Alternative Styles, Orchestral Excerpts, etc.)



Long Term Planning

- Curriculum Planning
 - Work with the other instrumental teachers in your district on a regular basis
- Know your feeder programs
- 3 and 5 year vision
- Ensemble Goals vs. Student goals
- Collecting, maintaining and analyzing data.

Data and Record Keeping

Sample projection of student numbers in a program with approx. 10% drop out. Do you know your numbers?

	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
5	100	100	100	120	125	125	125	125	125
6		90	90	100	112	112	112	112	112
7			81	81	81	81	81	81	81
8				73	73	73	73	73	73
9					66	66	66	66	66
10						60	60	60	60
11							50	50	50
12								45	45
TOTAL	100	190	271	374	457	517	567	612	612

A. Drop Out Rates

Students/Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total loss rate over 8 years
At 5% loss	100	95	90	86	81	77	73	70	30%
At 10% loss	100	90	81	73	65	59	53	48	52%
At 20% loss	100	80	64	51	41	33	26	21	79%

* adapted from Bob Phillips

Short Term Planning

- Marking Period
- Concert Planning
 - Selecting the correct repertoire (see David Pope's presentation from Tuesday)
- Unit Planning
 - Independent from concert planning.
- Daily Instruction
 - Right Hand Skills
 - Left Hand Skills
 - Music literacy

What does music mean to your students? How can you show that you care?

- Explore ways to learn about your student's musical interests. You will learn a lot!
- Express your love of music through your dedication. Quality teaching and thoughtful personal interactions are crucial.

Get organized!

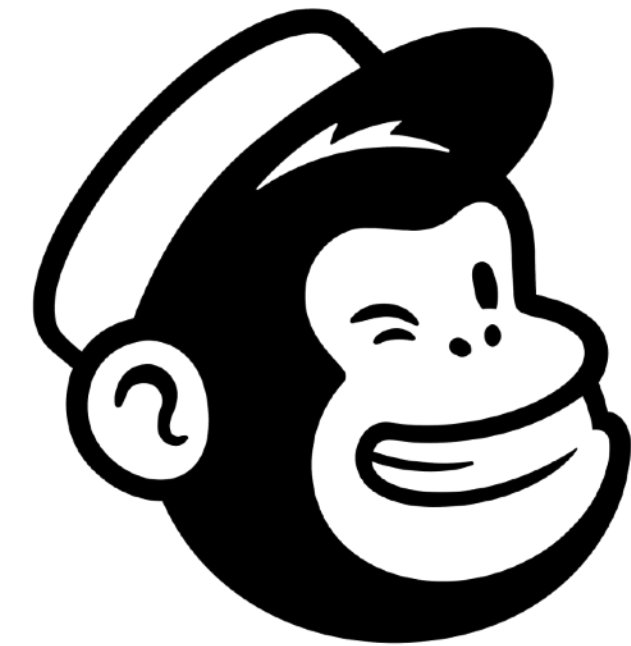
- Order Order Order!!
- Your Office
- Classroom
- Music Library
- Inventory Labeling system
- CharmsOffice.com or similar



* actual photo from Bob Gillespie's office

Communication

- Regular emails/newsletters to parents/students (mailchimp.com)
- Website/blog
- Social media integration?
- Letters of encouragement & support
- Wording. Example: “orchestra” vs. “strings”
- Get to know your students on a personal level
- www.Remind.com - free one-way text messaging!



mailchimp



Create an identity

- Within the school & community
- Logo
 - T-Shirts
 - Letterhead
 - Website/Blog
 - Banners/Flyers
- Make business cards
 - “donations accepted”, www.vistaprint.com



QR Codes!

Samples Logos...

Williamsport Millionaire Strolling Strings



CHAIN OF LAKES MIDDLE SCHOOL

Orchestra



Orchestra

WINTER PARK HIGH SCHOOL



WINTER PARK, FLORIDA
www.wporchestra.org

NEW ALBANY
HIGH SCHOOL

Orchestra



Music Programming

- **Marketing** is key to attracting a big audience and being seen
- Themed concerts
 - “Bachtoberfest”
 - “A Night at the Movies”
- Give students a say
- Hang flyers in school and around community
- Email the entire district & community - make it a big deal

End part 1

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Part 2

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Teacher as conductor vs. Teacher as facilitator

- Teacher must be both conductor & a facilitator
- Score study - use a repertoire analysis form
- Prepare lesson plans ahead of time
- Practice your conducting AND parts on each instrument

- Engagement as classroom management
- Make connections with every student
- Check on your students' well-being
- Be a champion for mental health
- Be honest, treat students respectfully, and with grace

Repertoire Analysis Form:

<https://tinyurl.com/3ev22tvx>

STRING ORCHESTRA REPERTOIRE – ANALYSIS FORM

(Revised August 2019)

TITLE: _____ COMPOSER/ARRANGER _____

PRINTED GRADE LEVEL: _____ ACTUAL GRADE LEVEL: _____ FESTIVAL LEVEL: _____

KEY SIGNATURE

_____ C Major / a minor

_____ A Major / f# minor

_____ E^b Major / c minor

_____ G Major / e minor

_____ E Major / c# minor

_____ A^b Major / f minor

_____ D Major / b minor

_____ F Major / d minor

Other _____

_____ B^b Major / g minor

TIME SIGNATURE

_____ 4/4 (common time)

_____ 3/4






_____ Cut Time

_____ 2/4

_____ 6/8

Other _____

STRINGS PLAYED ON

	E String	A String	D String	G String	C String
1st Violin					
2nd Violin					
Viola					
Cello					
Double Bass					

POSITIONS BY INSTRUMENT

	1 st Position	2 nd Position	3 rd Position	4 th Position	5 th Position	Extensions
1st Violin						

Teach the Students You Actually Have... Not the Ones You Want

- Consider ensemble strengths/weaknesses
- Does your enrollment reflect your student population?
- Does your repertoire reflect your student population?

Encouragement & Enrichment

- Rewards
- Growth beyond your classroom
 - Private lessons
 - Summer camps
 - Youth orchestras
 - Solo & Ensembles
 - Social practicing/playing



Gigging Ensembles

- A group that is “ready to go” at any time.
- An extra opportunity to connect to the culture of the community.
- Builds “soft skills” for students.



National Anthem



Collaborate

- Get together with your art, drama, and other core subject teachers to come up with some ideas
- Partner with outside arts support groups, businesses, etc.
- Find ways to celebrate everything your students do!



Technology Integration

- We must reach today's students by continuously adapting our teaching style to the world as it changes around us
- How much of a role does technology play in our lives and the lives of our students?
- Can help motivate students to practice and get excited about music, orchestra, and their instrument.

Recruiting

- Not a “season,” but a continuous activity
- Visit to your feeder schools frequently
 - Swap schedules with your feeder teacher!
- Vary your presentations to rising students
 - Teacher solo, small groups, big groups
 - Pass out goodies during recruiting events (pencils, t-shirts, flyers)



Student Leadership

- Students have leadership roles
- Develop necessary skills
- Promotes:
 - Ownership
 - Discipline
 - Community

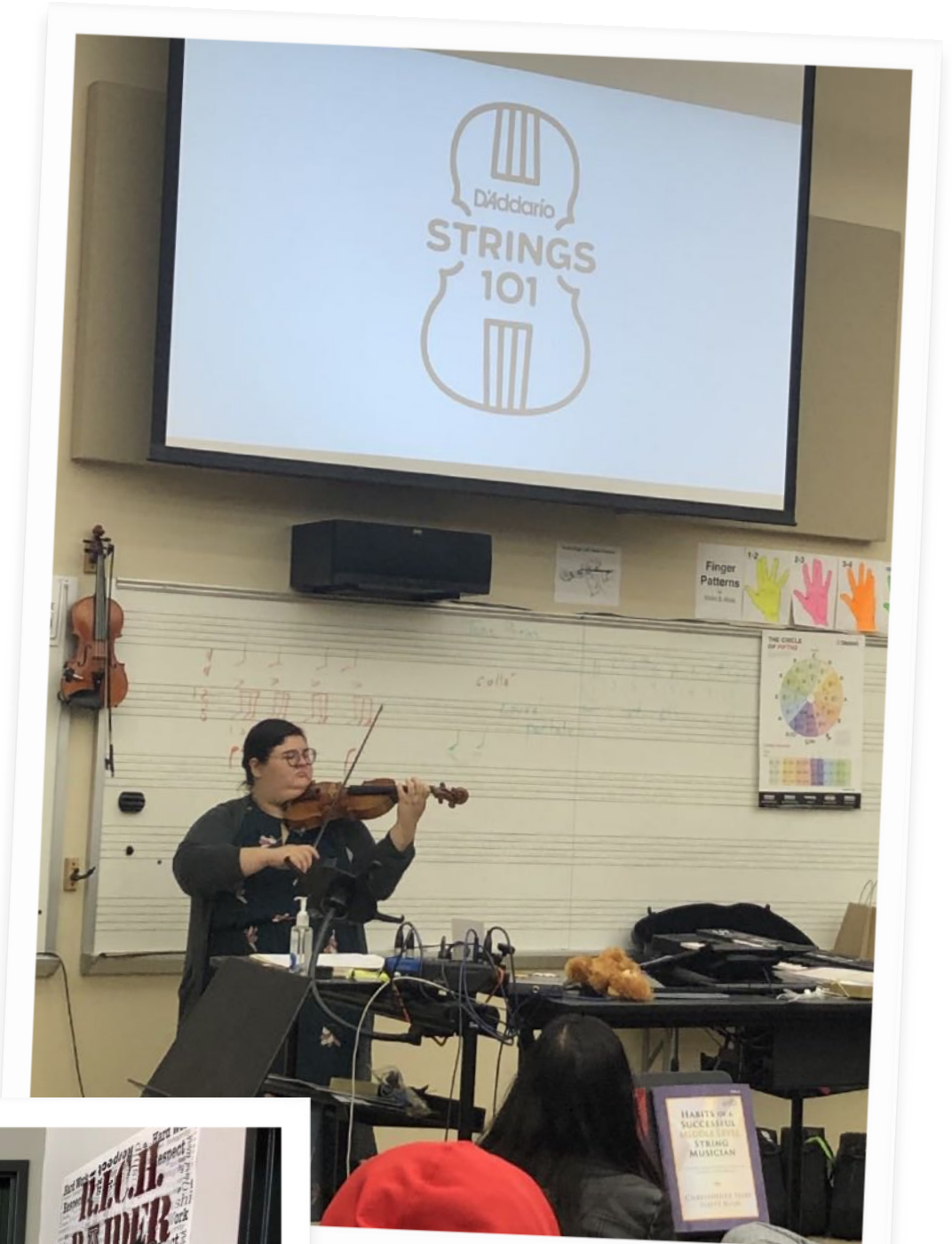


Give Section Leaders More Responsibility



Get everyone involved!

- Booster organization
 - A strong group of parents can be your best friend
- Administration
 - recognize them at concerts, have them perform with your orchestra
- Community
 - guest artists, soloist on concert
 - guest conductors



Build Pride & Community

- Volunteer to perform within the community
- Hold social events (movie night, etc.)
- Let students take ownership
- Bring in outside guests
 - Conductors
 - Coaches
 - Luthiers
 - Skype/Zoom sessions with composers/performers

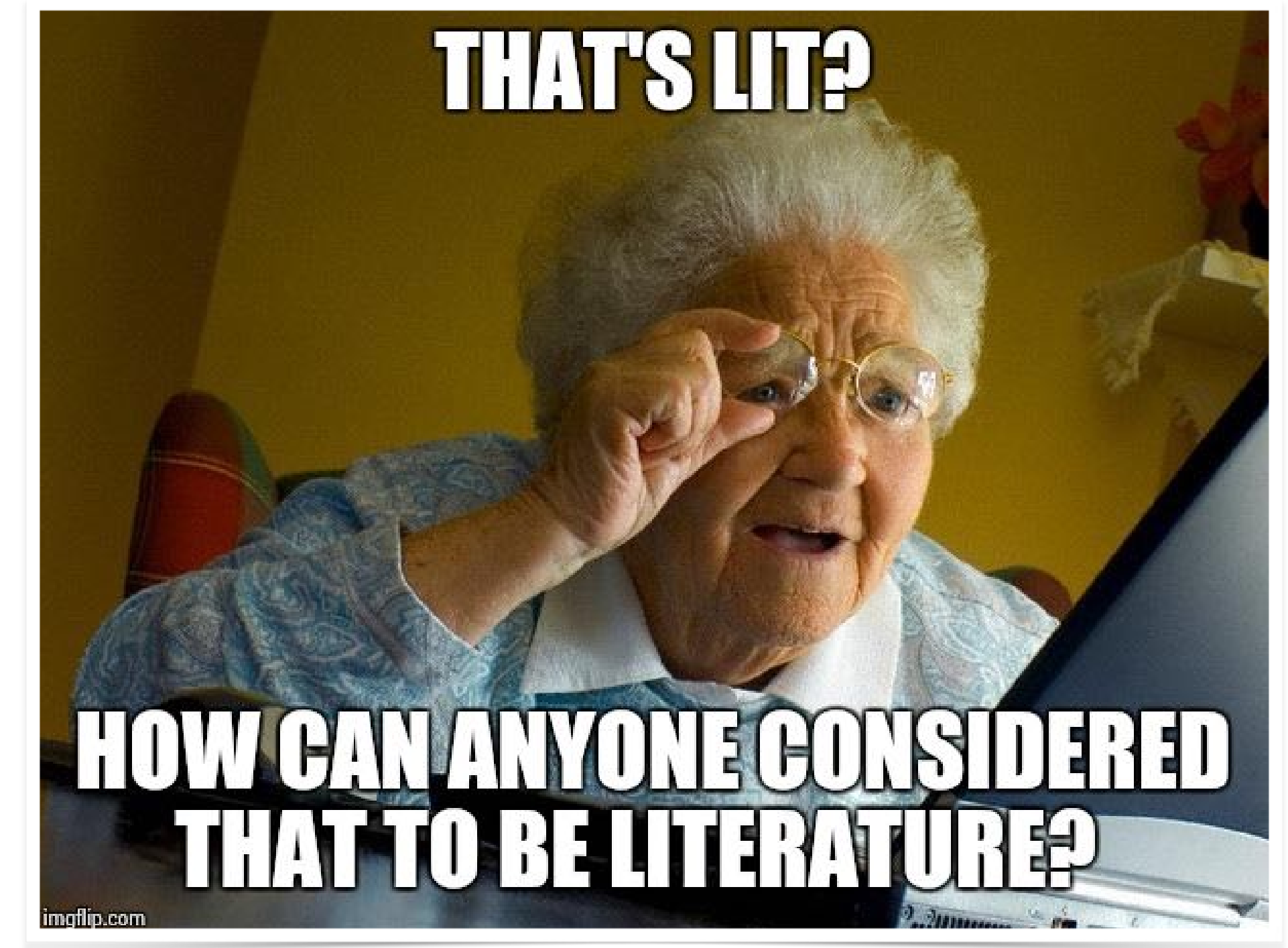


Student Motivators

- Recognition programs - example: “String Stars” of the week
- Challenges
 - allow younger students to play in a more advanced group
 - Switch instruments?
- Provide students with music that will stretch their abilities, talk it up

Meet them at their level

- Learn the latest “cool” lingo
- Keep up with pop music, TV, and culture
- If you are able, bring humor into the classroom
 - Jokes
 - Memes
 - Funny videos



Mahler



Smahler

Continuously self-reflect...

- Visit high quality programs
- Attend professional development
- Make connections with other teachers and learn from them
- Model the type of self-reflection & assessment that you want your students to develop

Always Be Looking Ahead...

- Stay on top of the newest trends and research-based teaching strategies by attending professional development conferences
- Subscribe to publications, blogs, Facebook Groups, Twitter feeds for inspiration and ideas
- Always keep an eye out for the best materials
- Remember that some of the best ideas are **borrowed!**

Questions? Contact Us!

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All materials/slides available at:
www.orchestrateacher.net



Special thanks...

