



Diagnosing the Problem, Prescribing The Solution: Tips and Strategies for Successful Teaching in a Title I School

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Our Background...

- East Cobb Middle School
 - 6-8 Title I MS in Cobb County
 - 1,300 Enrolled
 - 60 % Minority
 - 65 % Economically Disadvantaged
- Jeff Davis High School
 - 9-12 Urban HS in Montgomery, AL
 - 2,502 Student Population
 - 98% Minority
 - 83% Economically Disadvantaged





SYMPTOM# 1

- Our school has so much going on with standardized testing, it is hard for me to get what I need to build the band program.
- Prognosis:
 - Establishing relationships with key individuals is important.
 - You have to give a little to get a little.
 - Always bring a solution to the table!
 - Create a clever way to incorporate the vision and mission of the school into the vision of your program.



ESTABLISH RELATIONSHIPS

- Establish Meaningful Relationships With Key Individuals
 - Your Students
 - Your Parents
 - Administrators
 - Department Colleagues
 - Secretary
 - Bookkeeper
 - Custodians
 - Athletic Director

SYMPTOM #2

- Our school doesn't have...
 - Method Books
 - Instruments
 - Sheet Music
 - Sound System
- Prognosis:
 - A closed mouth doesn't get fed.
 - Reach out to your feeder school for assistance.
 - Write a grant...DonorsChoose.org
 - Take time to utilize online resources that are shared freely through blogs, social media, and websites.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- You're not alone
- Experience - even someone else's can be a good teacher
- Find someone who...
 - Is a brass specialist and can assist with your brass questions (or woodwind/percussion)
 - You can trade a euphonium for a french horn.
 - Help you with classroom management questions.
- YOU set the bar...will students perform low because of you?
- Take time to reflect on what best teaching practices will work best for your particular "band room". One philosophy doesn't fit all!

SYMPTOM #3

- Enrollment in our program is low because...
- Prognosis: Change up your recruitment tactics.
 - We interact with every student in the building on the first day.
 - Parents give permission to sign-up/test before enrolling.
 - Students test instruments during the school day.
 - We assign school inventory to students who need instruments.
 - Make yourself known to every student that you come in contact with. Students have to know and trust you before they truly buy into your program.

STUDENT RECRUITMENT

- Establish a System For Student Recruitment
 - Option 1: Homeroom Rotation
 - Option 2: Students Sign-up Course Selection
 - Option 3: Set up in Cafeteria/Visit Homerooms
 - School performances
 - Music electives
- Establish a System for Instrument Selection
 - Instrumentation
 - Try-outs During Class vs After-School
 - Who Will Help?
 - School-owned vs Rent...Know The Students You Serve!

SYMPTOM #4

- Our students can't/won't...
 - Make/perform high quality music
 - Attend morning rehearsals/after-school functions
 - Afford private lessons/masterclasses
 - Purchase/rent quality instruments
 - Achieve at the highest levels
- Prognosis:
 - If you set the expectation and guide your students learning, students can and will achieve anything!
 - Set a long term goal, then create a plan that will work towards that goal.
 - Be honest about what can be achieved in your environment at that time.

ESTABLISHING YOUR ENVIRONMENT

- You SET the culture of your room!
 - Day 1: rituals and routines
 - Practice how to enter classroom
 - Set Expectations (OUR EXPECTATIONS)
 - Remind everyday of first semester!
 - Review and implement expectations everyday for consistency and retention.
- Example:
 - Students have 3 minutes to enter band room, assemble before tardy
 - Enter quietly, assemble horns, sit in section, silently clap and count rhythm on board
 - Cases beside chair, backpack under chair, binder on stand, sit in resting position

ESTABLISHING A POSITIVE CULTURE

- Have A Set Of Classroom Rituals and Routines
 - Entering and Exiting Classroom
 - Will Students Grab Instruments First?
 - Are Students Allowed To Warm-Up Before Class Starts?
 - Rehearsal etiquette. When and how will students address concerns inside of the rehearsal.
 - Social Activities For Students
 - Back To School Cookout
 - 6th Grade Main Event
 - 7th and 8th Grade Movie Night
 - UGA Midfest
 - We Teach More Than Music, We Teach Social Behaviors As Well!

SYMPTOM #5

- The students, parents, administration do not understand my expectations.
 - Prognosis: Establishing a culture of excellence takes time.
 - You have to build and nurture culture.
 - Pick one or two weaknesses within your program that you want to improve during the course of the year.
 - Don't get upset when our students, parents, or administration does not understand our passion for our program. Its our job to teach, explain, and show them the importance through a quality musical product.

ESTABLISHING A CULTURE THAT PROMOTES SUCCESS

- The Band/Orchestra Hall should be a safe space for students.
 - Establish an environment that is inclusive of student's culture and identity.
 - "Our job as educators is to remind our students one more time than they are willing to make the mistake!" Prof. Meighan – Florida State University
- Celebrate Students For Their Accomplishments...no matter how small
 - Make Accomplishments a BIG DEAL! If you don't, who will?
 - Encourage Students To Take Chances!
 - Our Biggest Recruitment Tool Is Success – Quention Goins – Stephenson HS

CULTURE = EXPECTATIONS

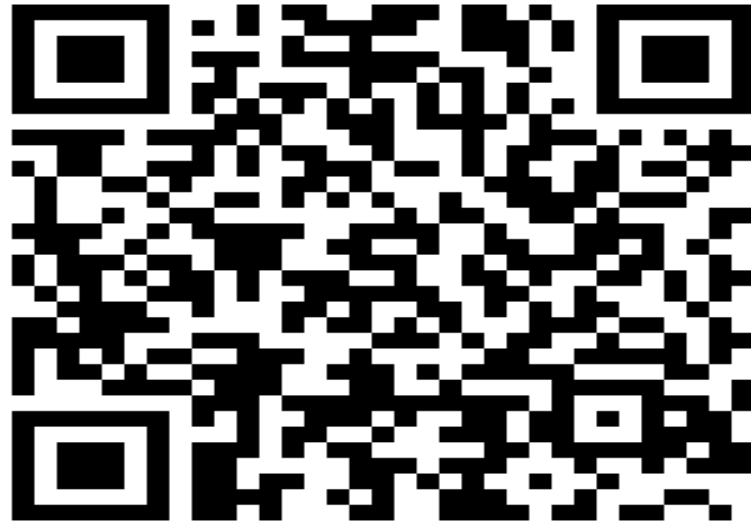
- Establish High Expectations For Your Students AND Yourself
 - Your Students Will Reach Whatever Goals You Set!
 - Our Job Is To Help Them Achieve!
 - We Grow When We Stretch Ourselves
 - You're Not Alone...Ask For Help 😊
 - We are forever students of our craft and students of the community we serve. Take time to research and experience both!!

YOU DEFINE YOUR SUCCESS

- Don't Let Someone Else Define Success For You and YOUR STUDENTS!!!
 - You Know Your Situation Best
 - Success is progressive, it's not a point to be reached!
- Find Someone Whose Opinion You Trust To Serve As A Mentor
 - We Are A Community Of Learners
 - No One Has All The Answers
 - Grab Lunch And Talk
- NO EXCUSES...Find A Way Around Limitations

Additional Resources

For additional resources please scan this QR Code



ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

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