

“A Curriculum Model for Measuring Student Growth”

William S. Koch
Presenter

Midwest Clinic
Chicago, Illinois
December 18, 2013

“A CURRICULUM MODEL FOR MEASURING STUDENT GROWTH”

This systematic curricular approach was designed for a band program, but can be adapted to be used by a choir or an orchestra.

OUTLINE FOR THE SESSION

- Why Measuring Student Growth Is Important to Our Profession
- “A Curriculum Model for Measuring Student Growth”
- How to Collect Data, Track Student Growth and Improve Instruction
- Music Teachers Response to Intervention
- The Cost of Authentic Student Assessment
- The Price You Might Pay for Not Measuring Student Growth

WHY IS TRACKING STUDENT GROWTH SO IMPORTANT TO YOU AND TO OUR PROFESSION?

Student growth is being tied to teacher evaluations across the country. Music teachers need an assessment system that measures student growth and improves instruction or they could find themselves in serious trouble with teacher evaluation.

Student assessment must be based on a **rigorous curriculum** that has scope, sequence, assessment, reporting, tracks student growth and is tied to state and local standards. If you are not regularly assessing students, you are not performing one of the most basic functions of a classroom teacher. It is impossible to track **individual student growth** with a trophy or a certificate.

We are not sure how much longer school officials will be able to ignore the fact that many music programs lack a rigorous curriculum for all students that leads to data and supports the claim that we are, indeed, an academic subject.

THE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CURRICULUM

40% Etude Curriculum
10% Scale Study Curriculum
10% Music Theory Curriculum
20% Concerts & Written Critiques
20% Knowledge & Skill Development
100% of the 9 week grade

Final Exam Solo with SmartMusic

ETUDES & SOLOS - The Centerpiece of the Curriculum

The “key” is developing a rigorous curriculum that works for your school, meets local and state standards which provides the data that tracks and measures student growth. We chose etudes, solos, scale studies and music theory as the vehicles to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to perform in our ensembles.

Every school and community is different and so is their music curriculum. The music curriculum that works in one school is unlikely to work in another. A well-crafted music curriculum guarantees that all students will be challenged.

ASSESSMENT DATES

At the beginning of the year, the students were given a detailed list with all the testing and other due dates for the entire year. **WARNING, DO NOT DEVIATE FROM THESE DATES!** The closer you get to a concert, the easier it is to forgo assessment, but stay the course. You need the data from these assessments to track student growth. Remember, the job you save may be your own.

WHY NOT JUST ASSESS THE CONCERT MUSIC? (Etudes/Solos/Scales vs. Concert Music)

Assessing only the concert music will not create a well-rounded independent musician. You need to develop a rigorous music curriculum to make sure your students will be college and career ready.

You cannot find enough concert music to guarantee that each student in the ensemble will have a rigorous curriculum and be equally challenged if you only assess the concert music.

CONCERT BAND CRT FORMS & RUBRICS

You need to have assessment forms with rubrics before you can perform an assessment. Forms are available online or from your state music organization. Using forms sanctioned by your state music association might give your assessments more credibility in the eyes of your students and administration.

COLLECTING THE DATA

Data collection can take an enormous amount of time but is a critical component for measuring student growth. Use technology and online resources to assist in the collection of your data. Once you have the data, it can be loaded into a database program to track student growth and improve instruction.

SEMESTER RESULTS

With this system, student assessments for the entire semester can be tracked on a single printout. Once you have the data, it can be broken down by student, section or ensemble allowing the teacher to clearly see the performance level of each category. There are many options for measuring student growth at this point in time. The data can be analyzed and decisions made regarding student growth or possible interventions to help a student or ensemble. Being able to collect data and sort it out in a timely manner is one of the highlights of our systematic approach.

ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS

Regardless of the number of assessments that you have, you simply need to be assessing your students and tracking their growth. Holding students accountable for their individual learning and tracking student growth through data collection is time consuming. However, in many states, this is now the law and is an important component in teacher evaluation.

ANNUAL COST FOR AUTHENTIC STUDENT ASSESSMENT & THE PRICE YOU WILL PAY

Assessment can be expensive, but for those of us with competitive marching bands, jazz bands, pep bands, winter drum lines and winter guards, a full year of authentic assessment is a small percentage of the budget when compared to the cost of running the extracurricular band programs.

What price will you pay for not tracking and measuring student growth? Only time will tell.

Closing thoughts...

Music teachers are in for the fight of their professional lives. We are being held accountable for our teaching and individual student learning as never before in the history of education. That makes it more important than ever that your music program has a rigorous curriculum with scope, sequence, regular assessment and reporting. We need be to more academic in our approach to education!

Student growth is being tied to teacher evaluations across the country. Music teachers need an assessment system that tracks student growth and improves instruction, or they could have serious problems on their teacher evaluation.

The price that you might pay for not assessing your students and measuring student growth could be your job!

We are not sure how much longer school officials will be able to ignore the fact that many music programs lack a rigorous curriculum for all students and does not have data that supports the claim that we are, indeed, an academic subject.

Koch & Associates Educational Consulting LLC

William S. Koch President

email: Kochandassociates@gmail.com

website: kochandassociatesllc.com

phone: 847-208-5092

Koch and Associates have developed workshops to assist music teachers develop strategies on how to accomplish the mandates of the new teacher evaluation system. Our workshops will be beneficial to every music educator, whether their school district is chasing Race to the Top funding or attempting to create the finest teaching staff in the country.