



Evan Schroeder
Josh Weirich
Chris Murray



EVERYONE * BELONGS HERE:

Creating Sensory-Friendly Concerts in Your School

Zionsville Middle School Band
Zionsville, Indiana



How It Started

Adaptive Music Class

Music became a shared language
that transcended differences

Music is universal



01. Midwest

Attended “Sensory Friendly Concerts” presented by Amy Hourigan, Dr. Caroline Hand, and Douglas Droste

02. Ball State

Learned how Ball State University created concerts for students with sensory sensitivities

03. Inspiration!

Was inspired to bring it to Zionsville Middle School



* **Inspiration
RIGHT HERE!**



Everyone Belongs Here

Administrators

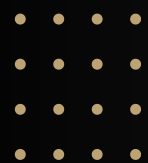
Community

Rock Band

4th year of presenting this concert

District-wide tradition where all administration attends

Truly collaborative from the beginning



Planning Phase



**How and
with
whom?**

1



**Director of
Special Education:**

**Logistics,
transportation
needs,
communication**

2



**Best Buddies
Club:**

**Greeters, setup
crew, inclusivity
ambassadors**

3



**Maintenance
Staff:**

**Accessibility,
seating, cleaning,
some setup**

4



Music Staff:

**Performers,
dancers, etc.**

5



Administration:

**Eyes, ears,
promos**

How to actually make it “Sensory-Friendly”



Sound Accommodations:

- Encourage attendees to bring earmuffs or earplugs.
- Keep extras available for anyone who needs them.

Lighting:

- Keep lights fully on — avoid sensory shock.
- No flashing lights or strobing of any kind



Flexible Seating



- Collect bean bags, rugs, and exercise balls from classrooms around your building (or elsewhere!)
- Use a Google Form to coordinate what teachers can share. This is essential! Team up with your coworkers to get the most out of the experience, but do your best to limit the interruptions.
- Students LOVE the variety and freedom to move!
 - Creates comfort and engagement.





VISUAL SUPPORTS



THE DANCE FLOOR



This is truly the heart of the concert.

Engage with the audience, encourage connections,
and invite your mascot!



Instrument Petting Zoo

Partner with your instrument dealer for “try on” instruments

Students get to try instruments with 8th grade helpers assisting.

Clean mouthpieces between uses.

The one-on-one moments are unforgettable.



THE BIG PICTURE



EVERYONE BELONGS



02:40



vimeo