Curriculum Design

Junior High Band/ Building Performance Skills

Paul Smith

Ridgedale Jr/Sr High School

Statement of Purpose

Performances are the most important part of any school instrumental music program. Successful band programs always have one characteristic in common and that would be excellent performances. These are not by accident; they are the culmination of many weeks of hard work by the students.

There are many factors that go into a great musical performance. A young musician must simultaneously be focusing on many tasks, mental and physical. The skills needed to be successful with this multitasking need be executed daily in order to perfect them. These skills are divided into two groups: technical and expressive (Slobada 1994,1985). Musicians who perform basic skills automatically can then place their concentration on other aspects of their performance. I have also learned from experience that the more emphasis that I place on basic skills at the junior high level the better my students perform at the high school level. This seems to be an obvious statement but I need to remind myself of this fact periodically. These basic skills are emphasized in the Ohio academic content standards(2001).

This is a unit on identifying and improving the basic skills which lead to improved musicianship and successful and meaningful performances. Students not only will become better musicians but they will enjoy band class more which in turn, also helps in retention of students to the next level. There is a proven positive correlation between students’ achievement in music and students’ achievement in their core subjects (Gouzouasis 2007). Improving the individual skills of the band members in the junior high band will lead to a more cohesive band and improved performances.

References:

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