

SCBDA Middle School Best Practices Meeting  
SCMEA Convention  
February 9, 2008

Organizational notes

- Think about one teaching idea (“trick of the trade”) to share at the All-State meeting.
- Submit “cool ideas” for the Best Practices web site. Send what you already have (games, practice records, PowerPoints, SmartBoard, rubrics, handouts/worksheets, handbooks, tests/quizzes, required instrument list, etc.).

Music for All Summer Symposium (formerly Bands of America Summer Symposium)

- description of middle school track
- June 23-29 in Bloomington/Normal, IL
- Leadership Weekend June 21-22
- available for grad credit (\$30 for 3 hours of credit) with very little extra work
- Early bird registration due March 31 (\$660)
- Full fee due (\$790)

Notebooks

- Mike
  - Students use binders – include pencil pocket, folders, handbook, dividers, warm ups, etc.
  - Mike bought the binders, pencil pouch, pencil, dividers for them so that kids couldn't say they didn't have them. He will buy them new ones next year. Got the PTO & principal to help with cost a little.
  - Put terms in back cover pocket so that student have quick reference.
- Cissy
  - If you don't have your binder on your stand, you don't get your practice part (xeroxed copy of music).

Motivation/practice

- Nancy
  - Divided class into teams by like instruments and awards teams with highest average and most improved average weekly.
  - Using SmartMusic for grades.
  - Kids who weren't friends before are encouraging each other.
- Band baseball works
  - Can get bases at Dollar Tree
- Pass offs
  - Mike
    - seating in chair order. Usually he starts seating them in chair order around the beginning of the second semester.
    - also ranks the “Top Ten” out of all instruments
    - gives out cheap Friendship House stuff for passing a unit (certificate, pin, nose flute, eraser, pencil, etc.)
    - in SmartMusic, reassigns any line that wasn't 95% or above with no more than one red note
    - “Whoever submits the fastest 100% score gets a \$5 certificate to [ice cream place].”

- ?
  - Automatic 100 in grade book for every 3 pass offs.
  - For every 7 the class does, the class gets a free day.
- Cissy
  - Does levels
  - For each level, have to play a number of things, have to have theory certain theory worksheets done, etc.
  - Silver is junior all-state requirements
  - Gold includes some clinic requirements
  - uses this to select 8<sup>th</sup> graders who march with the high school
- Anyone who brings all their practice reports for the 9 weeks gets to go to the “Rock Band Party” (Xbox game on big screen with loud music in auditorium). If it turns out that you're not telling the truth on your report, you can't go. (Mike)

Kids at different levels than rest of class

- Use stronger students to teach weaker ones a few days a week in a practice room. (Susan DuPuis)
- Give stronger kids harder music (7<sup>th</sup> grade for 6<sup>th</sup> grader, etc.) and let them practice in room during class. (Susan DuPuis)
- Check with area churches and maybe musicians would be willing to come work with students.
- High school tutors