

# Thriving in Both Worlds:

## Band & Orchestra

Curtis Winters, Orem Junior High

### Band

### Orchestra

#### 1. Warm-Ups & Fundamentals

Embouchure  
AIR (woodWINDS & brassWINDS)  
Brass: Lip Slurs, WW: Octave Slurs  
Tonguing/Articulation  
Fingerings

Bow Hold  
Bow Control - weight, speed, placement  
Slurs/Slurs Across Strings  
Bowing Styles  
Finger Placement & Shifting

#### 2. Tone Quality

How long can you play in ONE breath?  
Play 4-measure phrases by default  
Lots of AIR - usually MORE AIR  
Use pinwheels to “see” the air

Consistent tone from FROG to TIP  
Up to 8 beats in each bow  
Match bow directions/slurs

#### 3. Tuning

Regularly, AFTER warming up  
Concert F & Bb

DAILY - all 4 strings at the BEGINNING of class  
Beg: Teacher “pluck tunes” w/ method book  
Int: Students use tuner and/or play-along track  
Adv: Students tune from concertmaster’s “A”

Higher & Lower Drills  
“InTune” App

#### 4. Transposition

Big PROBLEM!  
Circle of 4ths/Transposition Handout

No Problem - an “A” is an “A” for ALL  
Does ALTO CLEF count???

#### 5. Learning Fingerings, Note Names, and Rhythms

Flashcards  
Worksheets - Binders w/ sheet protectors & dry erase markers  
NinGenius App

#### 6. Instrumentation / Balance

TUBA  
Clarinet  
Trombone  
Baritone/Euphonium  
French Horn  
Double Reeds

Viola  
Bass

## 7. Large Instruments

Tuba, Baritone, Xylophone

Bass and Cello

## 8. Instrument Upgrades

Mouthpieces

Reeds

Strings

Bows

## 9. Accessories Available in Your Room

Reeds - \$3 each

Neck Straps (for school instruments)

Gloves for Tuba (I like black)

Valve Oil

Trombone Slide Cream/Grease/Oil

Tuning Slide Grease

Cheap Shoulder Rests

(search "angelico violins sp100 sponge")

Shoulder Rest Bag (Uline.com)

Violin/Viola Rosin

Cello Rosin

Bass Rosin

## 10. Instrument Repair

Use Rich Butler from Bert Murdock Music or find SOMEONE

## 11. Function Chorales

By Stephen Melillo - purchase as a PDF set of 22 chorales

## 12. Teacher Modeling

More effective than explaining or even singing

Model on as many instruments as possible

Use a section leader to model when needed

Model difficult parts while ensemble is playing (on a LOUD instrument)

## 13. Achieving a More Mature Sound

Tone quality in all RANGES

Tone quality at all DYNAMICS

Sound Pyramid

NO open strings

Vibrato

## 14. Metronome

Dr. Beat

MetroTimer App

Drum Machine (Alesis SR-16 for \$149)

MP3 tracks created by GarageBand

More Cowbell!

## 15. Practice During Rehearsal

Sounds fine - do it ALL the time

Only for 30 seconds or less infrequently

## 16. Percussion

Two options: 1) separate percussion class or 2) mixed into band class

Either way, use DRUM PADS

*Remo 10" Tunable Practice Pad for \$30*

*Practice Pad Stand for \$50*

Stagg Xylophones are a nice alternative to "bell kits"

*Stagg Xylophone w/ stand: \$400, Yamaha Xylophone: \$1650*

Use mallet flashcards & worksheets

**The Percussionists Workbook** for multi-level pass-offs on all instruments

*<http://www.percussionwise.com/the-percussionists-workbook>*

**Hit it Hard!** for beginning percussion class

*contact Paul Lemen: [plemen@alpinedistrict.org](mailto:plemen@alpinedistrict.org)*

## 17. Music Selection

James Swearingen

Brian Balmages

Others?

Soon Hee Newbold

Sandra Dackow

Richard Meyer

Others?

## 18. Combined Songs

Like it pretty well

Have to play SOFTER

Learn to play sharps and naturals

LOVE IT (even if just adding percussion)

Have to play BIGGER

Learn to play naturals and flats

## 19. Culture

Make it clear you equally LOVE both worlds

Consider combining the two worlds into ONE PROGRAM

*"Jaguar Music" instead of "Jaguar Band & Jaguar Orchestra"?*

Have combined leadership team & activities

## 20. Observe Great Teachers

Angela Harmon

Ashley Braithwaite

Others?

Heath Wolf

Zach Poulter

Others?

Contact me anytime at [ckwinters@alpinedistrict.org](mailto:ckwinters@alpinedistrict.org)

Flashcards & Worksheets available at [www.StepWisePublications.com](http://www.StepWisePublications.com)

*(check the **Free Stuff** tab first)*