

My Bag of Tricks: Some Effective Strategies

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Know some theory

— [Circle of 5ths

— [Whole steps and half steps

— [Intervals

— Integrate into your daily routine

Music Appreciation

— [Teach some history of music

— Middle School - Accent on Composers (Alfred)

— High School - Composer reports

— Integrate into your daily routine

Instrument Knowledge

- [Fingerboard Geography

- physical and mental reinforcement

- [Sound production techniques

- Weight, Angle, Speed, Point of contact (WASP)

- 1-100 scale for weight, speed, part of bow

- “lanes” 1-5 for bow placement on string

Scales

Levels

Bronze = 1 octaves, Silver = 2, etc.

Expectations

“by 8th grade, you should be able to play...”

Chorales

— [One of the best ways to improve many skills

— [Balance, intonation, blend, tone production, independence of line, theory

— [See handout

Technique

— [Posture

— buzz words to make it click

— [Rubber bands for good bow hold health

Keep it fresh

— [Mix up days - help listening skills

— [Alter daily routines

Games

- [Measure trade off game

- can be simple to complex

- [Internal pulse counting game (Dan Long)

Improvisation

— [Basic

— start with one note, and simple rhythms, build up...

— [Electric instruments

— Bring life to your program

— Beginners can improvise

Misc. Rehearsal Techniques

— [Preparations for performance/direction changes

— Breathe, move

— [Measure at a time

— [Play only on selected beats

— [Bow "words"