

Connections the Successful Music Teacher Uses to Make an Impact

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The Importance of *Connections* for your Career, your students, and for your teaching.

- Connection is the ability to create a trusting relationship with students and stakeholders of the program.
- All connections within the program begin with **YOU**.
- To reach and teach students to make an impact we must first create a human connection with them.

Many Types of Music Connections:

- Student Connections
- Instructional (pedagogy) Connections
- Community Connections
- School Faculty/Staff Connections
- Music Industry Connections

YOU are the most powerful teacher in your students' lives – you impact & influence them throughout their K-12 education.

How do we get to know our students?

- *Tell Me Something Good*
- *What are you doing away from school* forms
- Class Greeting
- Know their names!
- Speak to students (by name) when seeing them out of class
- Follow up conversation/questions to all comments
- Student Leadership meetings
- Participate in organizations such as SLAM

Instructional Connections:

- What does your rehearsal space say to students?
- Start where your students are – There is no one size fits all.
- Be aware of how you react through the learning process (tone of voice, begin with a positive, offer encouragement)
- Give them time to understand 😊
- Offer hints or clues to guide students to understand
- Ask your students questions: What are we trying to say to the listener? What is the composer's intent? Where is the most important moment in the phrase? Etc.

- Find your positive personality and commit to making connections during your rehearsals.
- Exhibit excitement while you teach – let your students see your love of making music and they will become excited too.

Community Connections:

- Service – Create videos for younger musicians (or help the less technical director)
- *Performance – Living room concert, small groups outside
- *Composer – Connect with a composer of one of your pieces
- *Advocacy – Create a marketing campaign to get students back
- Celebrate – Highlight all victories

What students enjoy the most through music is meeting other people: **CONNECTIONS** made through the gift of music.

Go build your student connections and experience the **IMPACT** of these musical **connections**.

