

Markings & Mini-Lessons



Setting up Beginners for Success

CAITLIN RAMSEY | MMEA CONFERENCE 2022

Ideal vs. Reality

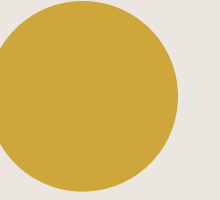
- ✓ Like-instrument classes
- ✓ Daily instruction
- ✓ Small teacher/student ratio

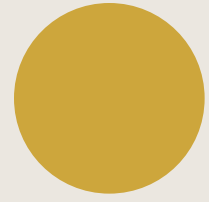
- ✓ Mixed instrument classes
- ✓ Limited instructional time
- ✓ Large teacher/student ratio





How can we help
our students and
ourselves when our
scheduling is less
than ideal?





Front-Load Instruction

1. First Classes Without Instruments
2. Instrument Markings
3. Mini-Lesson Event



First Classes Without Instruments

Use class time to:

- ✓ Set expectations
- ✓ Practice note recognition
- ✓ Work on counting
- ✓ Learn the parts of the instrument
- ✓ Develop good posture
- ✓ Limited embouchure work



Instrument Markings



✓ Provide visual reminders for assembly and hand position

✓ Expedite learning and instruction





Instrument Marking Process

Step 1: Collect instruments

Step 2: Play test instruments

Step 3: Mark instruments

What you'll need:

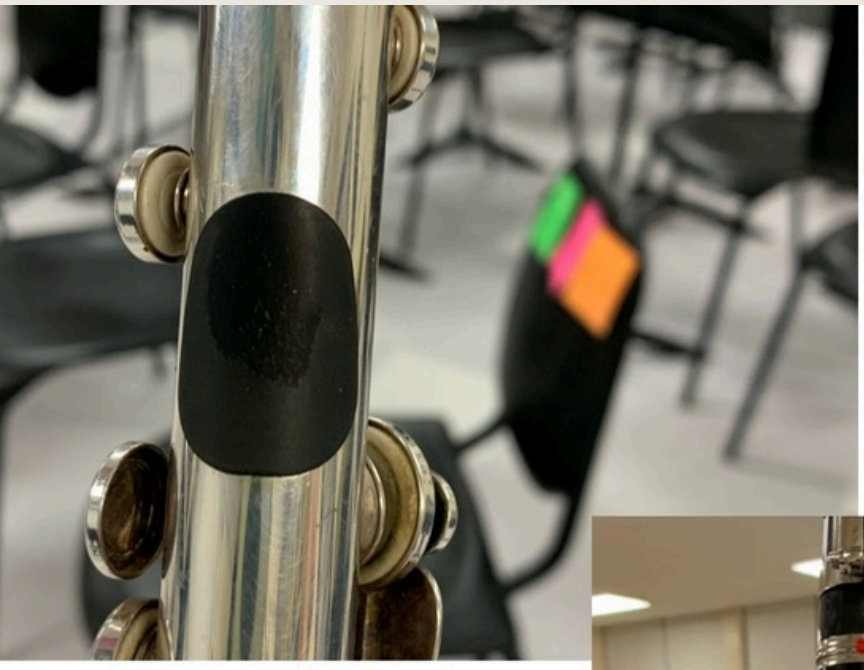
Nail polish (Red, Blue)

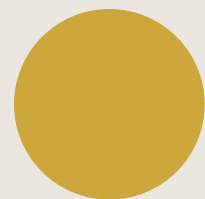
Mouthpiece Patches

Stickers

Painters Tape

Sharpie Markers - Black/Silver





Mini-Lessons Event

Provides students with one-on-one instruction before their "first" band class

- A weekend or evening event
- Each student has a scheduled mini-lesson time
 - Parents signup students in advance using Sign Up Genius
 - 20 minute slots for brass & percussion
 - 30 minutes for woodwind
- Lesson are taught by local music teachers
- Students learn how to:
 - assemble
 - hold
 - make their first sounds





Train Your Teachers

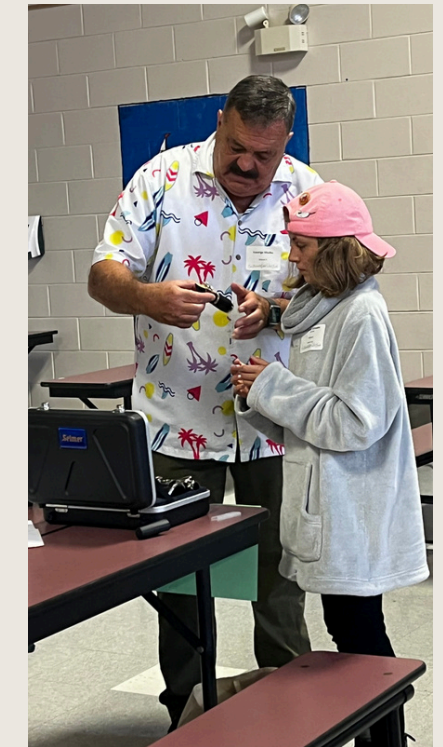
Teach them "your way." This ensures cohesive language, methods, and efficiency.

- One week before the event
 - Provide written mini-lesson outlines
 - Provide example videos for each instrument
- A few days before the event
 - Hold a short Zoom call to review and answer questions

The Event



You will need several parents and students to help you run the event. You need the freedom to float, interact with parents, and solve problems.



✓ Stop #1 Registration Table

Students check in and pick up name tags. Name tags include name, instrument, and mini lesson station #

✓ Stop #2 Instrument Table

Students pick up their newly marked instruments and any accessories that they've purchased

✓ Stop #3 Mini Lesson Station

Students head to their assigned station for their mini-lesson. Each station needs:

- Table and 3 chairs
- Teacher schedule
- Lesson outlines for teachers
- Paper towels, valve oil, slide grease, extra reeds, ligatures





The Outcome

- More efficient use of "first" class
- Prepared & confident students

Side Benefits

- Greater connection to parents
- Creates a buzz around your program



Questions??

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