

Professional Development Summary

Session 1: Strategies for a Culturally Responsive Classroom

_____ Culturally responsive teaching requires an ability to develop students academically, a willingness to nurture and support cultural competence, and development of a sociopolitical consciousness. It's important to know what you believe and push back against stereotypes and white dominant norms that are perpetuated in school. Being culturally responsive during rehearsal and assessment may include: having students decide what to play/practice in class, allowing students to share their experiences with music, have students compose and improvise, have students conduct in their own way, play pop music during scale warm up, assess students based on growth rather than chair tests. In addition, a culturally responsive classroom is set-up to represent the students. For example, the class decorations will show composers of all backgrounds and genres, having no hierarchical seating system and allowing students to mix up the seating, and creating a space for collaboration.

Session 2: Conducting Your Way Out of a Paper Bag:

_____ Three simple rules: 1. Have conviction with good character, know your stuff, and be the music. When leading an ensemble it is important to be a good leader. Meaning, that you should have a vision of what you want and have a plan to get there, have trust in your students, be an effective communicator in your conducting and your feedback to the ensemble, and have integrity. In addition to leading the ensemble, it is important to know the score and all background information. Understand the score layout and overall structure, know the notes, and finally have an interpretive goal that is genuine and knowledgeable

Session 3: Rehearsal Planning and Sectionals: How to Get Better Quality with the Limited Rehearsal Time We Have

This session focused on how to keep the ensemble busy while still being able to work with the individual sections that need attention. This session emphasized the importance of working in sectionals. She outlined the strategies for being efficient in a sectional by delegating leadership roles to students, having focused practice in struggling parts of the music, showing students how to translate their focused practice to other parts of their music. In sectionals it is important to plan ahead and show the students the goals of the rehearsal so they understand exactly what needs to be improved. For string rehearsals it is important to break it down into skills such as rhythmic and pitch practice.

Session 4: Analyze This! Incorporating Music Theory in the Lesson to Improve Musicianship, Intonation and Expression

This session talks about how incorporating music theory in rehearsals helps students in their musicianship. It teaches them to be a complete musician rather than just a player, helps with understanding the structure of the music, helps students to talk about music like a professional, hear harmonic relationships to improve intonation, recognize patterns and progressions to help with sight reading, and enhance awareness in composers intentions. He talked about providing vocabulary building blocks to help students talk about the music: Intervals, scales, chords, key signatures, harmonies, meter, rhythm, texture, form, and style period.