

CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ELEMENTARY MUSIC NEWSLETTER

May, 2010

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COORDINATOR'S CORNER

By Loretta Bourn

END-OF-YEAR IDEAS AND REMINDERS

Please return all items checked out from the department resources ASAP!



Loretta's Soapbox

If you know me at all, you know that I do not endorse use of videos/dvds in place of live, teacher-directed, student-centered instruction. I realize that use of instructional videos/dvds, in limited amounts, may be necessary for substitutes to utilize in music—with emphasis on the term *instructional*. I do not believe that showing an entire musical is appropriate. I do, however, embrace the use of video snippets and segments to enhance instruction and engage students. For example, while teaching music, I greatly enjoyed showing students two or three songs from *The Sound of Music* or *Mary Poppins*. I do not recall ever showing an entire musical. If you feel students are missing some of the great musical theatre selections, write an insert for the campus parent communication with a "suggested list" for summer, family viewing!

Taking the idea of video segments a step further—consider using the segments as a reinforcer for the end of the year (while addressing delivery of TEKS). The plan might go as follows:

- Tell students that the class is starting a game to earn age- and school-appropriate "Movie Musical Moments" for the last week of school.
- Create a plan for earning points, spelling a music word, etc. and connect the incentive to the behaviors you desire the students to exhibit (aligned with classroom/campus behavior expectations).

- Implement a system (points, class periods, etc.) that assigns a ratio for earning one MMM. (i.e. 10 points = 1 MMM; 15 tickets = 1 MMM; etc.)
- Assign a date when the earned incentives will be rewarded. If a class earns 4 MMMs, the teacher may choose to share 2 MMMs one class period and 2 MMMs during the following class period.

Extension: Follow-up the MMMs with a compare and contrast of some of the MMM selections.

***Follow campus procedures for video/dvd approval. Adhere to all guidelines for educational use of videos/dvds.**



Three elementary music teachers were among the recent selections for district Spotlight Teachers. Over the years, we have had great representation from the elementary music department.

Kudos to Liz, Abby, Jeanetta!

Shining the
Spotlight on

Abby Hawes
Moore

Jeanetta Mieth
Bang

Liz Silva
Jowell

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

Online Course (Moodle) for DTE for January

Three sessions will be offered.

Choose **one** session:

June 6–12, 2010 (On June 7th, any music teachers desiring help getting started with the moodle, may attend a help session in Tech Lab 1, at ISC-West starting at 9 a.m - noon. This is a great way to get Mary's assistance and, possibly, complete the entire course. You do not need to register for the help session. Simply register for the June 6 moodle.)

August 8–14, 2010

Oct. 31–Nov. 13, 2010

Combined Technology Sessions for Elementary and Secondary Music

August 3, 2010:

Using Tech. in the Music Class(18067) 8 a.m. – noon
Sound Systems for the Music Class(18069) 1:00-4:00pm
A representative from Romeo Music will share some of the latest and greatest technology innovations applicable to music instruction.

Sing-a-bration 2010

July 7–10, 2010 (participants may register for all or a portion of the events)

Grapevine Convention Center & Lancaster Theatre

(online registration currently being accepted)

Clinicians include Albrecht, Gilpin, Jacobson, Lightfoot, and more!

Participants may choose to register for individual days and workshop sessions. See the workshop list and register at <http://www.penders.com/c/2883/Sing-a-bration-2010>

Kodály Institute of Houston 2010

July 19–23; 26–27 and August 2–6

Levels I, II, III, IV Teacher Training and Kodály Certification

Tuition: \$600

Learn more at

<http://www.class.uh.edu/music/pcs/development/kodaly.php>

TCDA (Texas Choral Directors Association)

July 28–31, 2010

Henry B Gonzalez Convention Center

San Antonio, Texas

Find more information at

<http://ensemble.org/tcda/index.php?p=2010conv>

MUSIC MEMORY 2010



By the time this newsletter is published, Music Memory 2010 will either be rapidly approaching or over. The participation of 20 campuses this year is greatly appreciated! This is one of the highest levels of participation in the history of the district-wide event. Please consider participating in next year's event. It would be amazing to reach 50% participation (26 campuses) or even higher! The lesson material is in the folder in the global drive, and it includes many interactive and engaging activities. Competition is a minimal part of the process with every participating campus receiving a plaque/trophy!



INVENTORY

For several years, elementary music teachers were asked to complete an inventory of music materials. This year the process is being modified. Teachers will be asked to complete inventory forms on a rotating basis of every two years. This rotation will begin with the 2010 – 2011 school year.

ACTIVITY IDEA

While searching online, I stumbled across an activity involving students holding on to bandanas. I had an “ah-hah!” moment. When performing partner dances, activities, or routines where students traditionally hold hands, consider using a bandana and have each student hold onto an end of the bandana. It could get tricky in certain square where couples change; however, perhaps setting a



guideline such as “the bandana always stays with the girl” might remedy that issue. Just a thought!