

RECITALS

How to make them awesome for your students and you!

Planning and Picking a Song

- As soon as the recital is announced, set a goal of what to play.
- Encourage all students to participate, regardless of age or ability.
- Be mindful of time limits for songs!
- Be age appropriate, no adult themes or curse words.
- If you need an accompanist or backing track, plan early.
- The student should be able to fully learn and polish the song ahead of the recital.
- Choosing can be overwhelming; you can give them a short list and let them pick from it.

Preparing for the Recital

- This will be a good experience, but prepare them for the realities of a live performance:
 - Practice distractions—coughing, crying kids, ringing phone, music falling off the stand, etc.
 - Educate the students on proper etiquette—entering and exiting, supportive audience, etc.
- Check in with the parents often and encourage practicing and preparation at home.
- Send in your complete information to the office staff ON TIME.
 - Double and triple check all information you give to the front desk.
- Make sure you are at all your lessons in the weeks leading up to the recital.
- Prepare that students will miss lessons before the recital but still show up for the performance.

Recital Time

- Plan to be there for every one of your students.
- Check in to make sure they have their music and instrument and how they are emotionally.
- Greet the parents if you see them.
- The students are your focus. Catch up with fellow teachers in the break room, not backstage, and even then remember that students and parents can potentially overhear you.
- After the student's performance build up their confidence. Tell them what a great job they did.
- Speak to the parents at the end. Take pictures. Shake hands. Talk about how proud you are.

First Lesson After the Recital

- We require students to attend this lesson in order to participate in the recital and you need to be there too. You don't want to be the teacher that calls out the day after the recital.
- Congratulate the student on setting a goal and working towards it. Acknowledge the good, what can be improved, and where to go from here.
- Ask students what songs they enjoyed and if they heard something they'd want to learn.
- Talk to the parents about how things went. Tell them that you are looking forward to seeing what their child can do at the next recital.
- Make notes of what worked and what didn't. Each time gets easier!