

The Vault

MSOE Weekly Newsletter

Week 7, March 13, 2019

Dr. Erik Johnson, MSOE Program Director,
Associate Professor of Music Education
Casey Lawson, Vault Editor and MSOE Assistant
Program Director

POSITIVE FEEDBACK: 2 WAYS!

Positive feedback is sometimes the best medicine. When rehearsals are getting out of hand and every student seems to be talking or messing around, point out those who are doing the right thing and create high expectations for the rest of your students from their good behavior. There are always good things going on in your room even if it seems like the complete opposite. Your students will jump on any sort of friendly competition, so create that friendly and competitive environment before anything gets too out of hand. It is also important to cut the teacher talk time down, as hard as it might be, your students will thank you in the long run. One more thing, remember that there are a lot of different kinds of students which means they all learn in a different way. Change up how you teach and give different ways of learning the same thing. There are a lot of different levels of students out there are they all learn at different paces so make sure there are a lot of different options in your tool bag.

-Courtney Hunter,
Bassoon Teaching Artist



Something that I like to focus on while I am teaching is positive feedback! If students are always hearing about how they are not doing something correctly, this could discourage them. It is important to realize that every player is an individual, and they all have their own opinion of what is correct or not. Although every teacher should of course point out what students need to improve upon. When I would teach private lessons to elementary school clarinet players, I would purchase stickers to give students when they accomplished something within an excerpt, or if they filled out their practice sheet! They would always be excited to receive a sticker, and this allows them to have fun! Positive feedback is even more effective when you have a personal connection with each of your students as well. For example, if you know they like superheroes, why not buy them superhero stickers? Overall, positive feedback encourages students to believe that they are doing something right!

-Katie St. Gemme-Pate,
Clarinet Teaching Artist



In This Issue...

- Positive Feedback
- Be Our Guests
- Note on ABA
- Validating Student Answers
- Teacher's Tool Box
- HIGH STAKES Word Search

A NOTE ON ABA

This past week, I had the amazing opportunity to play and serve at the American Bandmasters' Association Conference. From meeting influential people in the band world at the Denver International Airport, I learned that a friendly face can go quite a long way. From serving as an usher and helping the grad students load/unload, I learned that even the little actions make a difference. From playing on a national stage, I learned that performing your best is important, but showing that you are having fun is too! Even though I may have ended the week deliriously tired, I would not have given up the experience for anything. At one of the concerts, I even had an audience member come up to me and thank me personally. I also saw several of our MSOE clarinetists attend our performance on Wednesday night. I feel honored and privileged to be part of the CSU Wind Symphony and represent not only MSOE, but also CSU in general on a national scale.

-Natalie Morris, Clarinet Teaching Artist



PROP BOX!

Props to the MSOE students who went to the American Bandmasters Association concert this past week! It was awesome being able to see them getting involved with music outside of MSOE.

-Katie St. Gemme-Pate



VALIDATE STUDENT ANSWERS

Make sure that you are validating student answers and responses. One thing that I have personally integrated highly into my own teaching is validating and responding to student answers. This can be with either a summary of what they had just said, readdressing the question(s) you asked them with their comment leading the thought process, or asking a follow up question for the student to think a little bit more deeply about what they had just said. This can promote a higher level of thinking for the students involved and also provides a better level of understanding on a subject if a student is confused about it.

-Jacob Wilkinson, Trumpet Teaching Artist

SHOUT OUT!

I just want to thank Anna Philippe and Isabel Waterbury for being amazing people and helping to develop some incredible high school trying on teaching artists. They have put in a lot of work and effort to give them as much experience and resources as possible. They always bring a smile to my face and remind me why we do what we do every day. Thank you for all the smiles and laughs *-Courtney Hunter*

Special shoutout to Katie Knutson this week! She has been doing so many things and I'm proud of how she is managing all of it. *-Natalie Morris*

What I am really impressed by is how much we have all taken a step back to focus less on the musicality of what we are playing and making sure that we get all of the technical understanding first. The students have a harder time grasping the musicality of what they are playing if they can't play it. *--Jacob Wilkinson*

**B
E
O
U
R
G
U
E
S
T
S!**

JAMIE WOLF

serves as El Sistema Colorado's Program Director and Choral Teaching Artist, leading the organization in its work using music as a tool for social change with underserved youth. Since 2009 Jamie has taught choral and general music at a variety of public schools in the Denver area, worked as Assistant Director of the Transitions ensemble of the Colorado Children's Chorale, and taught private voice and piano lessons. Prior to moving to Denver, Ms. Wolf worked at The Music Place, a community music school in San Jose, California, and at Partners in School Innovation, a non-profit organization dedicated to education reform. When Ms. Wolf is not teaching, she can be found spending time with her family, reading, and exploring the outdoors. Her musical life has also consisted of conducting the Highlands Church Choir, performing around the Denver area as a singer/songwriter, as well as singing with event bands and providing demo vocals for local songwriters. Ms. Wolf graduated with a Bachelor's degree in music education from Northwestern University.



COURTNEY DOWLING

, previously Ms. Strauss, is an enthusiastic and passionate teacher here at Rocky. She is very proud of the work her students accomplished over the last few years and can't wait to see where they go this year. As a cellist, Mrs. Dowling enjoys playing chamber music with friends and also performs with the Longmont Symphony. Mrs. Dowling began her collegiate studies at the University of Denver in cello performance. While here, she received her certification in the Suzuki Cello Method. After two years, Mrs. Dowling packed up her cello and relocated to Queens, NY where she finished her undergraduate degree at Queens College's Aaron Copland School of Music. While in New York she spent her time performing with orchestras, chamber ensembles, and a few eclectic rock bands while she taught cello lessons and chamber music in schools around the city as well as through college preparatory programs. She finished her Masters Degree in Music Education at the University of Northern Colorado in May of 2014..



DANIELLE JOHNSON

is currently in her sixteenth year of teaching orchestra in the Adams 12 Five Star Schools in Westminster. She is sought after as a guest clinician and adjudicator along the Front Range. In 2013, she was named Colorado's "Music Educator Who Makes a Difference" by the national publication, School Band and Orchestra magazine. An active performer, Johnson has played assistant principal viola in the Steamboat Symphony Orchestra since 2004. She conducts the Front Range Youth Symphony at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities, the Colorado Ambassadors of Music European tour, and served as a guest conductor at the Lebanese International String Orchestra Workshop at Notre Dame University in Beirut, Lebanon.

TEACHING TIP!

This week, I stole my teaching tip from Colonel Don Schofield, commander and conductor of the United States Air Force Concert Band. In an honor band, he once set a goal to never stop rehearsing for more than 10 seconds to give instructions at a time. As I reflect on my own teaching, I realize I could implement this idea better myself! What would our MSOE sectionals look like if we all tried a rehearsal like this? -Natalie Morris

COMING UP

Wednesday, March 20: No MSOE! Spring Break, woo!
Saturday, April 6: MSOE CARNIVAL!
 8am-1pm in the UCA

Uyama Hiroto is a Japanese composer and arranger, and I personally have found many of his albums to be great to throw on in the background and relax with. This specific album helps me clear my head, and yes I did listen to it while writing my vault entry.
 -Jacob Wilkinson

SPRING BREAK!

Spring break is coming up this next week, so let us all make sure that we are taking our week off to refresh and regroup before the rest of the MSOE season and the rest of the semester. -Jacob Wilkinson

CLUES

Word Search on Page 6

- 1) 😊 Feedback
- 2) Guest Teacher _____
- 3-5) Three "Concerns"
- 6-10) Teaching Cycle Steps
- 11) ___ Words or Less
- 12) MSOE Event on April 6
- 13-14) 2 parts of Anticipatory Set
- 15-18) MSOE!!!!



The VAULT Presents....

TEACHER'S TOOL BOX

A collection of all teaching knowledge gathered in the 2019 season, in six words or less (a work in progress)

Talk less, play more
Sing it, finger, play it
#MODELIT

Teach the person, not the [insert instrument here] player

Start at the bottom of the pyramid

Lead with a musical action

Students determine objectives

Students count off

Put students in charge

Concise Feedback

Share the objectives

Praise positive behavior

"Good" is not good enough feedback

Build on small successes

What can you communicate nonverbally?

Pass the "Angry Birds" test

No such thing as an "Arts Emergency"!

Learn (and steal!) from your teaching peers

Give more than you get

Use variety to maintain engagement

Give technique musical purpose

Help students create helpful habits

Wherever you put the bar, students will reach it!

Reflect on self, process, student impact

Provide the structure that students crave

...WHAT ELSE?

Do YOU have a tip that belongs in the toolbox? Let us know!

Email the editor at casey.lawson@colostate.edu

MSOE MISSION STATEMENT:

The purpose of CSU's Middle School Outreach Ensembles are to provide arts education that promotes a mindset of global citizenship and social justice through cultivating consciousness.

The MSOE Program is made possible by the generous support of private donors and Dr. Dan Goble, Director of the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. We are so grateful for your support!

Win Yourself a Clarinet Lamp by Completing this Word Search **FIRST!**

Clues are on page 4. Turn in to GTA office or scan and send to casey.lawson@colostate.edu

M F P X M B K Z F N D E V X O W T L S M T E O T Y
 I D J S S Z L A V I N R A C D F P S X E Q L M W J
 D V S C T T F M E F W G C W E U I E X R F H L H R
 D E O P U V N L H H X W I U T Y T C A P M I J E C
 L N W Y K O M A C Q U R E U E L B M E S N E I J O
 E K G F I Q Q B T E L A B O R A T E G T A E Y M O
 O E N G A G E P B Z V W V I V V D R S R Q V V S M
 N N M V Q B D F A R V O Q I H C P O P E P I M E C
 S C I D A N T I C I P A T O R Y S E T N S T S L B
 E W T N E D U T S U D J S F L H C X R G X I W F Z
 M F V B C Y X N I Q N I O T G O H J V T N S T S A
 A X V V M E L I F N X O V O W H O G U H L O R I R
 R N H C A E R T U O Z Q U B S Q O M M E V P O G R
 F A I V F V P C L O S U R E L B L E L N L A H P J
 W S S E C O R P T C N R H B K T T P I U B L A I C

Letter from the Editor

Don't you just love when things don't go as planned? As I write, snow is coming down and CSU has cancelled school and MSOE today--what tragedy! In my experience, one of the most important traits for a teacher to have is the ability to roll with the punches. Schools are unpredictable places, so flexibility is key to thriving in them. A colleague recently told me that his mantra is "Well, this might as well happen" (after telling me about how a surprise fire-drill interrupted a performance at a school assembly!). So, I encourage you to embrace the inevitability of change and learn to adapt, think ahead, make contingency plans, and be flexible to handle any curveballs life decides to throw at you! -Casey Lawson, VAULT Editor

Contact Us
 Questions? Comments? Concerns?
 Submissions? Send them to:
casey.lawson@colostate.edu

