



Re-energizing the Beginning String Classroom: Many Roads to Success

Bob Phillips

ENERGIZE: *give vitality and enthusiasm to*

CHOICE: *an act of selecting or making a decision when faced with two or more possibilities*

An energized classroom occurs when enthusiasm combines with well thought out choices and quality instruction.

1. Who are we?
 - a. Teacher demographics – Life stage, grade, student ratio, contact time, resources, facilities
 - b. Student demographics – Age, musical/cultural background, socio-economic status
 - c. Administration – Requirements, understanding, role

2. Different strokes for different folks
 - a. Student learning styles - Aural, visual, tactile, logical sequential, global, etc.
 - b. Teaching styles – Aural, visual, tactile, logical sequential, global, etc.
 - c. Delivery styles – Verbal/non-verbal, analytical, discovery, modeling, humor, proximity, etc.
 - d. Pace of class - Energy curve, instructional materials, relative to time on task
 - e. Pedagogy - Instrument set-up: guitar/shoulder, left hand: fingers down or up and spacing, right hand: pizzicato, arco and when, rhythms: quarters, quarters and eighths
 - f. Aural and visual learning - Rote, rote to rote notation, rote to notes, notes in noteheads, notation
 - g. Counting systems – Numbers, French time, Gordon, McHose, The Force
 - h. Curriculum - Playing, ensemble playing, reading, sight-reading, listening, theory, history, composition, improvisation, assessment, conducting, singing, movement, etc.
 - i. Tune Selection
 - a. Who is your target audience? Kids, parents, teachers, community
 - b. Type - Classical, movies, Broadway, rock, jazz, world, Christian, Jewish, alternative styles, African- American, Latino, Texan, Canadian, Australian, Asian, folk, etc.
 - j. Performance music - Leveled, educational, pedagogical, motivational, cool, musical, etc.
 - k. Method books and supplementary books - Yes, no, maybe so
 - l. Technology - SmartMusic, CD/MP3, DVD/video, websites, YouTube, PowerPoint, SmartBoard

3. What is our purpose? – Measures of success - affective, cognitive, musical, real world

SUCCESS: *the accomplishment of an aim or purpose*

Success for Bob Phillips is?

Success for you is?