

Classroom Management Paper

Nicholas Mortenson

EDU 301 02: Classroom Management

How to manage students is one of the biggest questions new teachers have. In this paper I will discuss my own personal teaching philosophy for the first few days of class, and how I want my room set up.

Teaching Philosophy

In a music classroom I need the students to trust me, because it is as much a classroom as it is an ensemble. For this reason, I need the students to have faith in me that I can lead them to a better understanding of music. When I am able to build this trust, the students will feel that they are able to make mistakes, and the students will be learning from each of their mistakes and failing forward.

I understand that this will take time, and it would have to begin before school even starts with a letter home to the parents and the students, which will also build a relationship with the parents (appendage 1.). The most important idea is to get the students more open to trying new musical ideas and giving positive encouragement to the students (Wong 2018). As a music teacher it is my job to teach the students to express themselves through music.

First day

On the first day I would not just have the students sit there and listen to me talk about the same thing that every teacher has talked about the whole day. I would have to cover several things that I could not gloss over. These would be safety things mainly such as the fire and tornado drills. I would also cover how to ask to use the bathroom. To use the bathroom, I would have the student use the hand sign for toilet (appendage 2.). This would free up the need to have to raise your hand, wait for me to call on the student, and then let them go to the bathroom. Finally, on the first day I would have the students do an icebreaker and sing through what they will do for a voice placement.

Second day

The following day would be similar, I would try not to talk at the students much but have them singing as much as possible. On this day I would first talk about the voice placement that all the students would have to do. The voice placement would be a few simple vocaleses that would be just to hear each individual student, so that I could place them where it would be the best for the choir. I would have a sign-up sheet so students would be able to start that day, and if any students could not make the allotted times, I would have the students talk to me about extra times. Also, I would already be talking about the tour trip I would have in the spring. This meeting about the trip would not be to see who is going on it but to simply tell the students about it, and inform them that there will be fundraising to help pay for the trip. The final thing I would do on the second day would be to sing through the vocal placement with the students so they know what it would be.

Third Day

On the third day I would go over what the officer positions are and who can be elected to them. This would be the one thing that would change for the following year, because I would have the election in the late spring not in the early fall. But as a new teacher I would not be able to do that, unless the previous teacher had officers then I would be able to use them instead. The officer positions would be a president, vice president, and a secretary. These positions would be used to help me do certain things such as organizing people during concerts, helping with taking role during the beginning of class, or helping to plan the tour. At the end of class I would again have them sing through the vocal placement which would only take about 5-10 minutes. This would leave time to sing through some of the easier songs I had picked out for the semester.

Fourth Day

On the fourth day I would talk with the students about the festivals and competitions that they could audition for. This might change from year to year as I see how the finances of the school work and how much I would be able to get. On this day I would also talk about the auditioned groups at the school. What audition groups I would have would change depending on how many students I have. If I had enough for 2-3 larger choirs (about 150-200 students) then I would have an auditioned large choir, but if I did not then I would probably only have an auditioned vocal jazz group, which would be 12-16 students. Because I was talking about the extra things that the students could do, I would also talk about private lessons. I would have time before, during, and after school for students to be able to take free private lessons from me. The lesson time would be on a weekly basis so the students would need to sign up every week for a lesson time. After all of this I would again go through the vocal placement audition with the students and sing through the easier songs for this semester.

Fifth Day

I would use this day as a makeup day for any students who were not able to do the voice placement. I would do this either in my office or in a practice room. While I was hearing students, I would see if the band or orchestra teacher would just sit with the students to make sure nothing horrible happens to the students. This will probably take most of the period, because I know that students will forget to sign up for a time to come in. I want to get voice placements done as soon as possible, because I need it to know where to place the students based on voice type, voice quality, number of students in a section, and troublemakers. If there was extra time, I would come back into the class and have the students sing through some more easy material.

Classroom Arrangement

When it comes to arranging my class, I would probably have several different arrangements that I would use throughout the year depending on what I want to do. The ideal set up of the choir for the first part of the quarter would be to have the chairs in 4-5 rows depending on the size of the choir. These rows would also have space in the middle for me to fit through so I could walk through my choir. In the room I would have a stereo system somewhere to be able to play music for when the students walk into the class and if I need to have them listen to something for the class. Other electronics that I would have in the class would be a projector of some sort. I do not really care if it is a smart board or not, just so it could play videos to have my students watch their own concerts. There would also be several instruments in the class that I would use from time to time. The first and most used would be a piano on wheels. I would use this every day, and if it was on wheels it would make it easier to move around for when I want to rearrange the class. Other than the piano I would have an assortment of auxiliary percussion instruments. These would be used much less often, only being used for keeping time or if a piece requires the use of these instruments. Looking past these instruments I would not have anything else in the choir room, because I would have a separate room for an office. This would allow me to have somewhere else if I need it, and students would not be going to my desk for something. In my office I would need basic office furniture: desk, file cabinet, and some shelving. I would also like to have a piano in my office. On this piano I would do the yearly voice placements of students. The final room that I would have would be a music library. This room would also be shared with the band and orchestra teachers.

Work Cite

Wong, H. K., & Wong, R. T. (2018). *The First Days of School* (5th ed.). Mountain View, CA: Harry K. Wong Publications.

Appandage 1.

NICHOLAS MORTENSON

<https://mortenson-nicholas.weebly.com>

Hello Parent or Guardian:

My name is Nicholas Mortenson and I will be your child's choir teacher for the next year. I am looking forward to working with your child in my choir class. Before school starts, I feel that I should tell you and your child that I have diabetes. This will never be a problem in class, but if you or your child have any questions feel free to email me.

This year I have a lot of fun music to work through with your child. Along with the music to work through in the normal choir class there are several other opportunities for your child to get more involved with music. These opportunities include an audition vocal jazz, audition all state groups, solo and ensemble contest groups, and several other auditioned festival groups. I highly encourage any student who is thinking about these groups to audition for them. There is a small fee for these groups (except for the vocal jazz group) to send in with the audition. If paying the fee is a problem, please let me know and there are somethings that I can do to help with the fee.

If your child wants extra help for any of these auditions or the music in class, I will have free private 30-minute lessons that I will offer to any student before, during, and after school.

In the spring I would like to take the choir on a tour. I am still working out some of the details for how much the trip will cost, but there will be a deposit of around \$100 in mid-October. The trip in total will be under \$600. Do not be alarmed, I will have fundraising opportunities for the students to make money that will count towards their own fund to pay for the trip.

I am excited to start to work with your child, and to see them develop into incredible singers. If there are any questions for me about anything, please let me know. I can best be reached at my email nlmortenson1@umary.edu.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Mortenson

Appendage 2.

