



Georgia Teachers of the Year Association

E-mail to MPedersen@paulding.k12.ga.us no later than May 14, 2018.

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“Promising Practices Classroom Activity”

Title of Activity: The Circle

Recommended to use with this number of students: Any number

Content Area: MUSIC - BAND Grade Level(s): 6-8

Match to Georgia Standard(s): C. Critical Analysis / Investigate
MMSB. 6) Listening to, Analyzing, and describing music
MMSB. 7) Evaluating music and music performances

Note: Use the remainder of this page and up to one additional page for describing the activity.

This Activity is used in band classes to help engage students to be active critical thinkers, while either in the act of performing or immediately following a performance. There are two parts to this Activity.

The first part of the "circle" is used to quickly eliminate rows and chair placements in the band. The "circle" places all students on the "first row" to allow the teacher greater proximity with each student. The "circle" helps each student quickly become a more confident player/musician. The "circle" also allows a hyper awareness of the basic elements of good sound construction - balance, blend, and intonation. Better yet, the "circle" fosters student independence and interdependence with one another.

The second part of this activity is centered around critical listening to a recording made while performing in the "circle". The recording is immediately played on the bandroom stereo system. The discussion may be teacher led the first few times the activity is done. Over time, students will lead discussions on what was heard regarding balance, blend, and intonation. Many times, outside YouTube recordings will be heard to compare "their" recording with another group's recording. Discussions may include other concepts such as dynamics, articulations, rhythm accuracy, key signature application, accidentals, etc. But the basic need for the circle is always to promote active student engagement in higher levels of critical analysis.