

Assessment: May the Odds Be Ever in Your Favor

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What is Assessment?

- The process of gathering information and making decisions about student learning
- Three phases: Measurement Evaluation, Action

Assessable Moments

Since music learning never really ceases, consider using “Assessable Moments”

- Pick a point in time when a particular skill is developing
- Determine where you think a student should be at that time (e.g., part-singing midyear of 5th grade)
- Evaluate student progress towards that skill
- Give credit for progress – we are never perfect
- Come back at a later time and re-assess that skill

Assessment Tools in Music

1. Rubrics
2. Playing tests
3. Written tests
4. Practice sheets
5. Teacher Observation
6. Portfolios
7. Peer and Self-Assessment

Checklist for Rubrics

1. Are you examining “how” as well as the “what”?
2. Do your assessments match your objectives?
3. Are the guidelines clear?
4. Are you using words your students understand?
5. Have you tested the same knowledge in variety of ways?
6. Are you providing quality feedback to help students become self-regulated learners?

Resources

- Facebook: Band Directors Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/banddirectors/>
- Farrell, Susan R., (March 1st, 2001). *Tools For Powerful Student Evaluation*. Florida: Meredith Music Publications.
- NAFME: www.nafme.org/my-classroom/standards/mcas-information-on-taking-part-in-the-field-testing/
- O’Toole, P., (2003, October 30) *Shaping Sound Musicians: Teaching Comprehensive Musicianship through Performance*. Chicago: GIA Publications.
- Rubistar: <http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php>
- Smart Music/Interactive Practice Studio/Etc