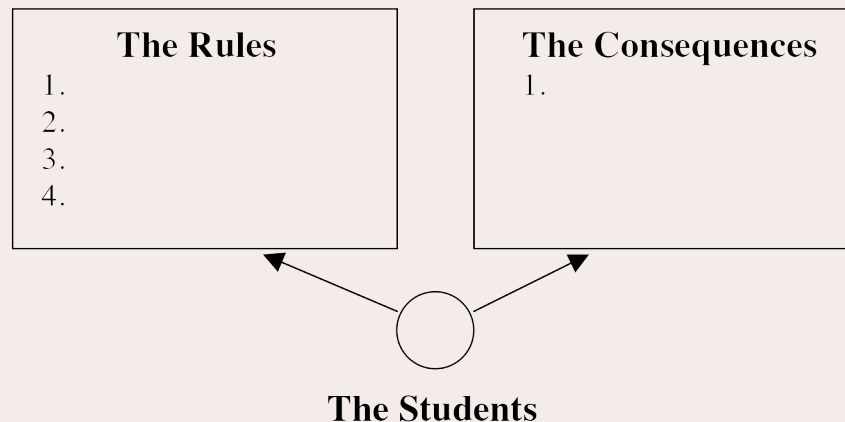


CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT IN THE MUSIC ROOM: "PIN-DROP-QUIET" CLASSES AND REHEARSALS

A Clinic by David Newell

The Rules and The Consequences: The Two Boxes of Classroom Management



The Rules

- As few rules as possible (4 or 5) recommended.
- Highly recommended Rule #1: *No talking when the teacher is working.*
- The rules must be practiced! Students learn what they *do!*
- Students deserve to know the reasons for all rules.
 - Students tend to "buy into" the rules if they understand the reasons.
 - All rules must be based on musical considerations.
 - "We do it this way so that we can achieve musical excellence."*

The Consequences

- Rules and Consequences refer only to the way this particular class is run.
- Only one or two consequences recommended; keep it simple.

Discipline by Pen: Highly Recommended, Highly Effective.

The Promises: Teachers must make and must keep promises made to students.

The Students

- The students understand that there are only two "places" to be in the class.
- Every day the students **place themselves** in one of the two boxes.
 - There is no third box!

Responsibility for behavior is where it belongs – on the students!

Teachers as Impartial and Unemotional Observers

- Students understand that teachers simply observe which box students are in.
- Teachers **calmly and impartially** notice when students leave the "Rules" box.
 - Teachers who raise their voices in anger do more harm than good.**

Teachers determine the climate in the classroom.

Wipe the words "Please and Thank You" from your management vocabularies.

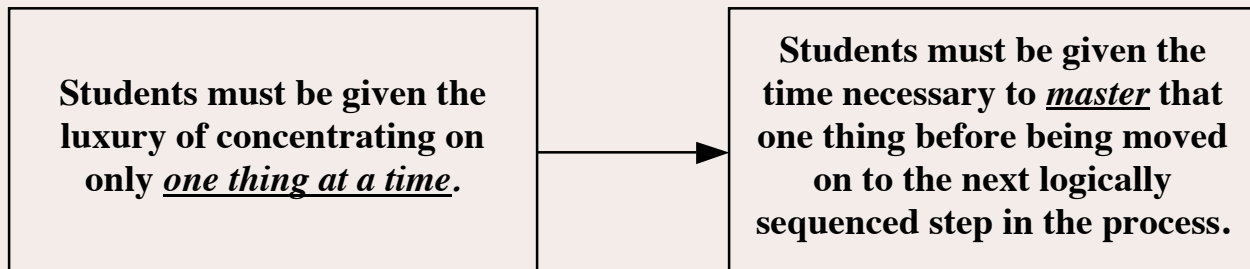
First Classes/Rehearsals Are Critical and are “Staged”

- Teachers who do not run their classes exactly as was described in the discussion of the Rules and Consequences will not be successful!

Management Techniques Eventually Must be Replaced by Musical Skills

- Rehearsals must be musically interesting, varied, and invigorating.
- Students who are making beautiful music have no interest in misbehaving.

TWO FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES



Two-Part Class/Rehearsal Format Maximizes Student Learning

Part One: The Lesson Part

- **100% Unison Teaching** of various musical skills begins all classes.
- Skills taught are those that will be required in the second part of the class.
- Once skills are learned, literature is handed out and rehearsed.

Part Two: The Literature Part

- Students encounter only new settings of learned skills in the literature.
- Far fewer stops to teach notes, rhythms, and so forth.
- "Literature Part" of rehearsal teaches **MUSIC**, not notes.
- The **Four Magic Words**.

The One-Way Bridge Connecting the Two Parts of the Rehearsal

- Once in the "Literature Part" of the class, cannot go back to teach a skill.
- Must not stop the music making momentum of the rehearsal.

The Daily Class/Rehearsal is our Most Potent Retention Tool

- All students deserve to make beautiful music everyday.
- Students who are touched aesthetically will stay in our classes.

