



School Board Meeting Presentation of Elementary Music Program

Use this sample presentation as a template for presenting and explaining your elementary music program to a school board. Note the importance of using data.

Mrs. BT: At the beginning of this school year, 162 students registered for band in fourth and fifth grade. This number includes 76% of the total fourth grade population and 59% of the fifth grade. While we have a total of 8-10 concerts per school year, the majority of our time is spent in small-group instruction and ensemble rehearsals. Since we believe band is more about the process than the final product, we thought tonight would be a good opportunity to give you a “behind-the-scenes” look at the process of learning an instrument!

Ethan M: What you’re about to see is a combination of our first two or three lessons! Mitchell and John will be teaching Dr. Strickland the very basics of trombone care and tone production.

Demo Trombone Lesson

1. Parts of the trombone
2. Embouchure (inside is “oh”, outside is “emmmmm”)
3. Race Cars (corners and air change – center stays relaxed)
4. Set-Up
5. Holding Position
6. First three notes
7. Articulation (“too”)
8. Mrs. BT: Hot Cross Buns (students play along)

Ethan C: After just five lessons on an instrument, band members have learned how to synthesize decoding the music and operating the instrument simultaneously according to a written language. For example, all the musical notes have numerical connections and most of our music is based on mathematical fractions and patterns. Mitchell Moyer is currently working on playing in new divisions of time and would like to share a short exercise with you! He has had about 10 small-group lessons on his instrument this year, which amounts to about 300 minutes of instruction total.

4th Grade Demonstration
- London Bridge (Mitchell)

Emily: The second year of instrumental study focuses on musical expression through new vocabulary and techniques that often stem from Greek or Latin languages. Words like dynamics, tempo, and articulation help us determine the style of a piece in order to present a more accurate performance. We also increase levels of musical

independence as 5th graders. Tonight, we will demonstrate these skills with a performance of the French Folk song, “Frere Jacques,” in a round.

5th Grade Demonstration
- Frere Jacques (John-Hudson-Emily)

Reese: As you can see, there is so much to learn in the first two years of learning an instrument. We want to thank our principals, central administration, and school board because none of this would be possible without you! Now, we have a special combined performance that we are preparing for the upcoming Winter Olympics!

Olympic Fanfare (all)
Students deliver “thank-you” notes

THANK YOU NOTES

EXAMPLE

Dear Dr. Strickland,

Thank you so much for allowing us to teach you the basics of trombone at this evening’s school board meeting! We know it was an unusual request but we thought the best way to highlight our elementary bands was to demonstrate the process of learning an instrument in order to showcase the perseverance, work ethic, and language skills that we, as young musicians, apply on a daily basis. We so appreciate your help and hope you had fun learning with us!

Sincerely,
John and Mitchell