

Technique Building in the Middle School Orchestra

Developing Complete Musicians

Bob Phillips

Elementary Review-“I forgot how to play over the summer” Right Hand-“No sword fighting but you can Sword Dance”

- Concepts
 - Placement - follow the leader
 - Geometry - angles
- Mechanics
 - Speed - 0-65 mph
 - Weight - 0-10 lbs
 - Placement – sound points 1 - 5
 - String Crossings - the seven levels of the bow
- Strokes
 - Détaché - Tiré/Poussé - Pull/Push
 - Martelé (slow)
 - Martelé (fast)
 - Collé
 - Spiccato
 - Tremolo

Left Hand-“No narps or flatuals”

- Extended hand position- forward
- Extended hand position- backward
- Vibrato
- Shifting
- Harmonics
- Scales
- Arpeggios
- Thirds

Ear Training-“Can you hear me now?”

- Tuning
- Matching pitch
- Ear to hand
- Improvisation
- World music

Eye Training-“Sight reading or using the force”

- Rhythmic Figures-4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 6/8, 2/2. uneven meter
- Pitches-lowest open string through 3rd position with all chromatic alterations
- Sight Reading – title, composer, key Signature, time signature, traffic patterns, style
- Conducting - Downbeat, 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, Cut, 6/8

Cognitive Skills-“What are the basses doing back there?”

- Music Theory
- Composition
- Music History

Repertoire-“What’s that new Richard Meyer piece?”

- Solos
- Ensembles-duets
- Orchestral
- Alternative Styles