

Classroom Management Ideas for Elementary Music

Instruments:

- “You play before I say, I’ll take your instrument away.”
- They go on the floor in front of the child and they put their hands in their lap.
- Rotate kids on instrument parts so they can take turns.

Dance:

- Everybody find a partner for a folk dance. When there are an odd number of students, have the imaginary musician named “Musico” be their partner
- It’s full participation required and yes boys, it is ok to touch a girls hands
- Everyone is on a team and encourage your peers

Centers:

- Students are assigned to a group of 4-5 people
- Each time they do centers, they will do 2 of them and the next time you do centers they will start at the one they left off.
- Center ideas include: boomwhackers, writing music, computer games, keyboards, music games, xylophones, and recorder

Seating:

- Students sit in rows and place your strongest singers next to the weakest ones
- Put the wiggliest kids in the back row

Other ideas:

- To make a circle, everyone holds hands then sits down
- Have class sticker charts on the wall and the classes earn up to 3 stickers per class period. At the end of the 9 weeks, the class with the most stickers gets a reward or music game of their choice.
- To cut down on talking and distractions, keep the class time moving along.