

5 Steps to Simplifying Your Lesson Planning

1. Focus on the teaching concepts

- Will you be using a district, state, or National standards?
- What curriculum map will you be following?
- How can you create lesson plans around the teaching concepts to fit any teaching situation (virtual, on a cart, in person)?

2. Use resources you already have

- What teaching resources online or in person can you pull lesson plans from?
- Are there old textbooks laying around?
- Do you have resources or materials you've gotten at conferences or workshops?

3. Make a list of songs and activities

- After knowing what concepts you'll be teaching, what songs or activities will you use to teach them?
- Using Google docs, make a list of the songs and activities you'll use to teach the concepts and standards.
- On your list, have you included a variety of songs, games, movement activities, instruments, note/rhythm reading, and technology?

4. Think about how you'll structure the class period

- In a 45 minute class period, how will you be teaching music?
- Have you thought about what you'll do at the beginning, middle, and end of class for each grade level?
- Have you thought about varying up what you do and changing things up based on the ages of the kiddos you see?

5. Stay flexible in your planning

- If there's an interruption during a class period, have you marked where you left off in the lesson?
- Are you leaving wiggle room in your lesson plans for conversations with your students to naturally happen?
- Are you keeping in mind that off days will happen and remembering that the main goal is for your students to learn music?

BONUS TIPS:

- Focus on your unique teaching situation and YOUR students
- Don't compare what you're doing to any other teacher
- Be open to advice and constructive criticism
- Know your teaching style and be comfortable being YOU