



Carnegie Link Up

Teaching Strategies for Situations of Limited Time

Here are a few strategies for those of you in situations where your preparation time with students is limited:

Double Duty- Find yourself having to spend all your class time preparing your kids for a school performance or concert and you feel you don't have enough time for Link Up preparation? Incorporate the Link Up material into your concert repertoire. Perform Come to Play as an opener to your concert. Look for choral arrangements of some of the pieces. Some of the tunes could be performed on instruments. Incorporate a movement piece into your performance to a part of one of the listening selections where students move through the audience.

Combine Classes- Consider arranging a few extra sessions with your Link Up classes by combining them for large classes. There are so many of the pieces and book work that can be done with larger groups that don't include the instruments and movement. With 65 kids in my classroom (yes, we were on top of one another), we were able to complete the orchestral instrument activities, watch the videos from the online resources, practice the singing selections, etc. These activities don't need much individual attention from the teacher, so they can be completed in a meaningful way with large groups of kids.

Once a week for one semester- Concentrate on the pieces that are easiest to learn- like the ones that are vocal selections. Assign some of the work from the book as homework activities- like the "create your own orchestra" and the recorder composition activities.

Split the Workload- If you teach some pieces to everyone, then choose others to prepare with individual classes, you can later combine classes and have students share their "expertise" with one another to learn bits and pieces of every single selection. You can also teach each class a specific section of a piece and then have them come together to play the entire piece, each contributing a small part to the overall form.