

Gadgets, Gizmos, and Games
WMMTA meeting at Parent Teacher Resource Center
March 15, 2005

Dog House and Grandma's house to learn the 2 black keys and 3 black keys /white keys. Joann will scan these and send them to interested members.

Road Rally Incentives Game-Students have a map of America on which they will travel around US for the school year. They must practice 5 days a week to travel. They begin in Wichita and can advance to another state if they practice. The 5 prizes include (Fuel prize candy, trophy, music notebook, dictionaries, 5 prizes at a certain destination. (Yvonne)

Practice Chart for outlining every single part of their practice each day of the week. Susan includes how many minutes to practice each of the assignments. "Prescribed practice." If they have 4 consecutive weeks of meeting practice goals, then they are given a week of "fun" practice (pop pieces, hymns, their favorites, etc.). When they come back, it was suggested that they could play theory games, duets. (Susan)

Music Mind Games--Building snakes using steps, skips, going backwards. Music Bingo (Joanne, Available at Senseney)

Dice for half/whole steps, steps and skips, intervals, note names, etc. Pictures to go on dice can be found at www.wendyspianostudio.com and the cubes to make the dice can be found at the PTR center.

Practice Incentive--4 lines of boxes. 10 points per box. Points are awarded if students remember to bring books, write down practice, theory, sight-reading, flashcards, scales, concert attendance, performance, being well-prepared. At the end of the first 50 points, they get to choose a pencil, 100 points-candy bar, 150 points-get choice of ruler, erasers, 200-composer statues. (Marlene-Friendship House)

60 second club-Flashcards naming notes, Level 1 bass C through treble G (12 cards) Level 2 from bass G to High G---2 bags of skittles. Level 3 low C to high C--3 bags of skittles. Names and times are on the door. All 60 second clubbers get skittles. Karen also gives a skittle for every line of theory they finish (in group lessons). (Karen Wagner)

Beethoven Bucks--Arriving on time \$1. Anytime she could catch them doing something right, she gave them \$1. (Raising hand instead of blurting it out, volunteering first, character development). \$1 if they needed to be reminded to practice and did it willingly. \$2 if they didn't need to be reminded. At the beginning of the year, Laurel has the parents fill out a sheet about their favorite candy, pop, etc. They can earn up to \$7 per week. \$10 of Beethoven bucks equals \$1 real money. Laurel tacked on \$20 to tuition to help cover costs. She has them maintain 3 pieces called triple A pieces. Assignment sheets should be viewed as if they were a check sheet for a pilot. (Laurel, Friendship house)

Keyboard--life-sized. Roll out staff. Snack and theory. Throw a bean bag at it then, run to the piano to play the note. March in time with the music. Karen--Music in Motion.

Laminated Staff and keyboard--use tiddlywinks, skittles, and other markers to have students build triads, intervals, scales, etc. great for group lessons. Picture of staff and keyboard on www.wendyspianostudio.com, under resources.

Magic wand--for the student who's "stuck." It breaks the tension and provides a psychological tool for getting past the insurmountable challenges. (Laurel-Target dollar aisle)

Colored Highlighter tape--can write on and easily peels off. Good to draw attention to the places on which you want a student to work. Available from PTR for \$2 a roll or from avidaviator-6 for. (Wendy)

I especially liked what Laurel said she does at the end of the year: She asks, "What was it I didn't like about teaching?" Then she gets rid of it or changes it so that it is not an emotional drain.