

All-State: Help, My Students Don't Take Private Lessons!

presented by Dr. Margaret Schmidt — reported by Cassandra Herold

This presentation centered around ensuring that you have a good handle on the pedagogy for teaching the instrumental skills from the podium. This requires careful planning, and a clear set of long-term goals/outcomes for what you want to accomplish. Short-term goals include the daily teaching and review of concepts and skills, along with their application in the music. She encouraged having a daily routine that could include review of basic skills, teaching new skills, preparing skills

aurally and physically before their introduction in music. This is helpful at all ages! At the younger ages, I find that a good solid warm-up with a new skill, or practice on a recently learned skill (like eighth notes) can allow students to focus on the “how” they are doing the skill, along with the “what.” Adding music processing from the printed page can take focus away from thinking about the bow arm/hand, speed of the bow, shape of the left hand, etc.

We can set our students up for suc-

cess by consistently reviewing and building upon skills that they have previously learned. There are many games that we can use to review an old skill—to keep students engaged and active in the class, while giving them an opportunity to think about something in a new and different way.

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