

# FIRST DAYS LASTING WAYS

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## Who Needs FDLW?

Below are classroom indicators I believe suggest a need for First Days Lasting Ways. Circle which one(s) of the 4 below that apply to you. If there is one that is not listed feel free to write it in the space below and share it with Mickey during the session. Which one(s) apply to you and your classroom experience this past year?

- ***Struggling with classroom management at the END of the school year.*** Despite your best efforts all year you are still unable to redirect your students behaviorally and you are unable to manage your classroom the way that you would like.
  - ***Consistency with your procedures. You do not stay consistent with your classroom guidelines, procedures and systems.*** As a result, students begin to not follow them over time. This can stem from multiple reasons: You do not have guidelines, procedures, or systems. Your guidelines, procedures, and systems are too complex and as a result they make it hard for younger students to understand. You have unnecessary and/or overly complicated rules and procedures. The teacher may struggle with keeping their own rules, and need help with creating a new set they can follow.
  - ***Pacing. You are too much in a rush to get to the material (i.e., subject matter). So much so that you speed past the guidelines, procedures, and systems necessary to achieve consistent classroom management.*** Haste makes waste, which creates a classroom of students that lacks discipline. Discipline is not the enemy of enthusiasm. Good discipline comes from a strong understanding by the students of the teacher’s expectations as well as a classroom climate that is ideal. This is often because students have only heard expectations once or at best at one point in the year (i.e., at the beginning of the year), as a result students don’t see expectations as a priority to the teacher, then it won’t be a priority to them. This in turn creates a classroom environment where it becomes easy for students to forget and struggle to meet expectations.
  - ***Over-saturation of information. A young teacher may get so excited with new and/or different methods of attention-getters and procedures that they end up oversaturating their classroom with techniques that don’t take root, which creates more stress for them and the students.*** The teacher’s eagerness to create a well-run classroom can actually turn into a classroom environment where too much is going on when the teacher needs to simply be teaching.
- Share any concerns you have or problems you face in the classroom that you hope FDLW will help you solve on the lines below:**

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### **How can FDLW help?**

FDLW Focuses on Creating a Classroom M.A.P. (Management Action Plan) for Success *BEFORE* the 1st Day of School

*FDLW is being ready to start the school year BEFORE you start your school year.*

*My rule of thumb is that you never have to recover from a great start.*

*Here are some factors we focus on in FDLW to help you achieve a phenomenal start to a phenomenal school year.*

### **FDLW FLOW (of Your Room)**

- Access your room. Plan how students are to enter and exit room to ensure self-sufficient start and end to class.
- Enter: Spot for personal belongings, instrument and music storage, sit down and set up.
- Exit: Where does everything go? Music, stands, instruments, passed out papers. How students should leave the room.
- Have a central location for student supplies and music, so they know *EXACTLY* we're to go for anything they may need. Reeds, oils, and music.

### **Paperwork That Works**

- Band Handbook for Program
- 411 Information to ensure proper communication is established at the beginning.
- Any school approved communication documents. (Remind)
- Paperwork if needed for social media posting to be able to promote program using student pictures and videos.

### **Autonomy As the Goal**

- Everything in the first days is taught as an orientation so students can implement it and take ownership of it themselves.
- Creating content, conveying it and capsulation of it into engaging and relatable stories and activities are key.

## **How Do I Implement FDLW?**

*You are the salesperson for the experience called your class. Remember, kids signed up to have a musical experience that starts with YOU, not to learn a musical instrument alone. The most important things about learning music have NO-thing to do with learning music. Take time to answer questions like this first: Who are you? What is this group? What is this classroom experience OUTSIDE of the instruments? If you cannot create an attractive experience without the musical instruments for ONE day then revisit the “why” of why you teach and what you are teaching. Remember, kids don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care. Starting with that powerful idea of why this class is important to you and to them as well on the first day is the best way to start the school year.*

## **The Very First Day of School...**

*Your customers are at the door! Have the salesroom ready/welcoming. Make it about them!*

- The kids have arrived, what do I do?
- Greet
- Talk
- No horns yet
- Handbook

## **2nd day of school, did you survive?**

*Begin to introduce the FDLW PowerPoint (see bullet points below). As you share the PowerPoint convey the seriousness of topics. Be ready to enforce and then reinforce everything on PowerPoint from day 1 to the end of year, otherwise it is pointless. The FDLW Prep PowerPoint of classroom procedures & expectations is an orientation that explains EVERYTHING about your class. Areas of the PowerPoint are as follows:*

- Welcome to the “Experience.” This is more than just a class.
- Am I in the right room?
- Seating
- Rules/Expectations/Guidelines
- What am I doing this year?
- Grading policy
- Who is this teacher as a person?
- WIIFM: What’s In It for Me?
- Sound-Adulting: Introducing yourself as a teacher is the first step in building a strong relationship with these new students. Lack of relationship building will lead to many issues throughout the school year.
- Consequences, good and bad
- Classroom procedures as per the “Flow” section above

## **First Days Fun-Sized Everyday**

- WX10
- Routines
- Expectations
- Agenda
- Instructional Academic Matrix

