**The Value of Music Connections**

Mary Land

[mary.land@wmich.edu](mailto:mary.land@wmich.edu)

**The Importance of *Connections* for your Career, your students, and for your teaching.**

* Connection is the ability to create a trusting relationship with students and stakeholders of the program.
* All connections within the program begin with **YOU**.
* To reach and teach students to make an impact we must first create a human connection with them.

**Many Types of Music Connections:**

* Student Connections
* Instructional (pedagogy) Connections
* Community Connections
* School Faculty/Staff Connections
* Music Industry Connections

**YOU are the most powerful teacher in your students’ lives – you impact & influence them throughout their K-12 education.**

**How do we get to know our students?**

* *Tell Me Something Good*
* *What are you doing away from school* forms
* Class Greeting
* Know their names!
* Speak to students (by name) when seeing them out of class
* Follow up conversation/questions to all comments
* Student Leadership meetings
* Participate in organizations such as SLAM

**Instructional Connections:**

* What does your rehearsal space say to students?
* Start where your students are – There is no one size fits all.
* Be aware of how you react through the learning process (tone of voice, begin with a positive, offer encouragement)
* Give them time to understand **😊**
* Offer hints or clues to guide students to understand
* Ask your students questions: What are we trying to say to the listener? What is the composer’s intent? Where is the most important moment in the phrase? Etc.
* Find your positive personality and commit to making connections during your rehearsals.
* Exhibit excitement while you teach – let your students see your love of making music and they will become excited too.

**Community Connections:**

* Service – Create videos for younger musicians (or help the less technical director)
* \*Performance – Living room concert, small groups outside
* \*Composer – Connect with a composer of one of your pieces
* \*Advocacy – Create a marketing campaign to get students back
* Celebrate – Highlight all victories

What students enjoy the most through music is meeting other people: ***CONNECTIONS*** made through the gift of music.

Go build your student connections and experience the **IMPACT** of these musical **connections**

**A screen shot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated with low confidence**

**Resource:**

**A book cover with green spheres and notes

Description automatically generated**