

Kaitlin Hughes
Secondary Music Methods
Scott Humphries
January 18th, 2010
#7 Discipline Questions

A. If a student called me an unprintable name, I would give them a stern look and have them stay after class for a few minutes. I would bring them into my office or a place away from all other students and ask why they called me that. “Is it something I did besides ask you to sit up?” Remind them of the ‘Posture Policy’ at the beginning of the year which said that you must have proper posture, sitting and standing correctly, while in music class. I would tell them that it was not something new to them; it was something I had previously asked for. I would also ask for them to come to me if there were any other problems before they called me a name in front of the class. “How can I help you if you do not let me know you are upset?”

A few things you can do to possibly prevent this, would be to pass out evaluations repeatedly throughout the year to see what the students are having any difficulties with you. Of course, be sure to enforce a ‘Posture Policy’ on the first day of school that way, they know they were informed. You could even post this and the other rules up in the classroom for all to see.

B. Catching two students drinking on the bus would be a very serious issue considering it is a school function and they are underage. I would first, take the alcohol away from them. I would also have them call their parents on the way home and have them meet us at the school. As soon as we got back to the school, I would meet with them both and their parents. I would have them tell their parents what they were doing on the bus and then I would talk to them about the seriousness of their decision. Another consequence besides having to tell their parents would be sitting out of the next two concerts, resulting in an F for that ‘concert grade’. Lastly, I will have

to let the principal deal with the students since alcohol was found on a school trip. If possible, I would like to have the principal meet the parents and us back at school, but if not we could plan another time that is convenient for everyone. If it seems like something that may keep occurring and become a problem, I will expel the students from my musical ensembles.

One thing to prevent this from happening would be to stress the effects of bringing alcohol or drugs to any school event and the consequences. Another thing that would be very annoying but could be done is to check each student's bags before going on the trip.

C. I would probably call the father or have a meeting with the student and father and talk about the missed concert. If the father were unaware of the absence in concert, I would sit down with only the student and talk to them alone. I would stress the importance of attending each concert for the whole choir's sake and for the student's own sake. Failure of missing a concert is an automatic failure of the class and the student is kicked out of choir for the rest of the semester or year.

In order to avoid this, I will clearly give the attendance policies out on the first day of class. I will also give out an annual schedule way ahead of time so my students have time to plan around their concerts, contests, and other events. I am very flexible so if someone has a conflict and lets me know very far in advance, or as soon as the schedule is let out, I am willing to make an exception if it is reasonable. If a student asks to be excused a week or two before a concert, I will not allow it. Thus, if the student skipped anyway, I would have to result in kicking them out of the ensemble. If a basketball player skipped a game, they would be kicked off the team or have to sit on the bench the rest of the year. I feel music is the same concept, and

I will tell my students this, the first day of class so they are aware of the penalties for skipping concerts or rehearsals.

D. For a student who fails to appear after school, I would talk to them in class or find a time during school for their punishment. Even taking away a free period and making them sit and think about what they did. I could add more time onto their punishment or decrease their rights in the music room. For example, if other students get free time or time on the computers and so forth, I could take away those privileges until that student behaves and does what I ask of them. If this student continually misbehaves and does not show up after school for punishment, I would have to send them to the office.

The only thing I could do to avoid this would be to give a list of punishments on the first day of school. I could even post it where students can see it. For example, 1st time offense = warning, 2nd = after school detention, and 3rd = Administration Office. I also have to be sure that I am always forceful in my warnings and hold true to them. For example, if I have to yell at them twice, it is an automatic detention, not two warnings.

E. I would make sure that the student is keeping up with the music and the band. They are probably not disturbing anyone and as long as they are keeping up, I find it ok. However, if they are falling behind or get lost easily with what is going on I would have to ask them to read outside of class or during other classes when they have homework time.