

Class Behavior Ideas from Jennifer Sims

Hello all Music!

I have some new ideas for my music class that I thought I'd share.

First, I am adding a new **behavior system** to what I already have in place. Click this link to read all about it: <http://thecornerstoneforteachers.com/free-resources/behavior-management/token-system>

It's called "The World's Easiest Token System For Behavior Management," and even though it was used for a regular classroom, it will easily adapt to a music classroom (and Music Therapy, too). I will have one drawstring bag for each class to put the tokens in, and I am using puzzle pieces for the tokens, sorted in ice-cube trays. Puzzle pieces: 500/\$1 at the Dollar Tree, and ice-cube trays are 2/\$1. You could also just print out numbers on pieces of paper for the tokens, if you want to spend even less money on this. I really like how you can have different behavioral goals for each individual kid (yay, differentiation!), without a lot of work, nothing for the kids to lose or forget (or steal from each other), and nothing really for me to keep track of. I am very excited about this new system! Email me if you have any questions about it!

Second, I am sending home **Music Homework** this year – something I have never done before. I wanted to start out with something Optional, Easy, Fun, and applicable to K-5 (and differentiated!). Next year, I plan to make the homework mandatory and a little more difficult, but I know I would have a lot of resistance from the kids if I did that this year. So, I thought I'd share what I came up with, in case anyone wants to copy it. (Just please change the email address and my name! Ha!) Copy it two-sided, so you can cut the paper into fourths. See attached.

Third, I found this on Amazon.com this week and thought it was hilarious:

http://www.amazon.com/ExcelMark-Self-Inking-Like-Stamp/dp/B0053Z1ONQ/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1375880806&sr=8-1&keywords=like+stamp

It is a self-inking stamp in the shape of the **Facebook "Like" button**. You know the kids will think it is awesome. I'm going to use it for my homework, and any other quizzes or worksheets that I have them do this year.

Lastly, I tried something new with my **seating charts** last year that worked out great. I used the Paint program to draw out a blank seating chart, then printed and made 1 copy for each class. I then wrote all the kids' names in, in pencil, along with any other important info. Then, I run all the seating charts through the copier. I use a colored pen to write on the seating chart copy during class (the date, grades, behavior issues, how many times I called on a particular kid, who was absent, who went to the bathroom, basically anything that happens during class). At the end of the week, if I made any seating changes, I'll change the master copy (because I wrote in pencil), and then run all the master copies through the copier again, ready for the next week. If I don't have time to make copies, I just choose a different colored pen and use last week's

copies. Sometimes, I won't make another copy of a seating chart for a whole month (using 4 different colored pens, one for each week). This way, my seating chart copies ARE my grade book, and I have DOCUMENTATION of everything (especially important for behavior issues: "Johnny, last week you said 'Shut up' 11 times and this week you only said it 3 times. Way to go, Johnny!"). Email me if you want more details, or if you want a copy of my blank seating chart.

Thanks for reading! Anyone else have any *Amazing Ideas* to share?