

Where Do We Go From Here?



OVERVIEW:

Going back to "normal"?

We are starting to focus on a new horizon as vaccinations are starting to happen. This is great, we can go back to normal! Wait, we aren't going back to the how it was. It will be a new normal. Don't panic, not everything has changed for the negative. The new future will be better - let Dr. Boonshaft tell you why and inspire you to get back to doing what you love!



Vaccinations on the Rise

What will your classes look like?

How to Be Prepared

Understand the state of the students

What Hasn't Changed

Some things will never change

Realize all of the new skills you've acquired

Do you miss the days when Zoom was a sound you heard and not how you taught? Educators were forced to become experts in things that you didn't necessarily want to do (teach via Zoom). As we start to move on from what was don't forget to **take with you the many new skills** you were forced to master! Most likely many of you have become experts in Smart Music - capitalize on it! It use to take a lot of scheduling effort to walk into every classroom to recruit students and follow up, now it can be as easy as a 2 minute "Zoom bomb" into various classrooms to make sure students see you and to hear that you are wanting them in your classes. Your skill set has grown ten fold and that's yours to keep and to bring with you into the "new normal".

The best thing about looking forward is a deep appreciation for the things you didn't even realize you were taking for granted. The pandemic showed all of us how much we miss normal interactions. It is going to feel so good to get back. This is **not the dark ages for music!** There is a hunger from everyone to get back, so get prepared because this is going to be the **biggest boom in music education EVER!**



Are you feeling like you lost a year of teaching?

Don't focus on when a student starts. The finest tuba player known to Dr. Boonschaft started in October of his final year of high school! **Whenever we start them doesn't really matter. The older the kids are the more apt they are to learning.** Dr. Boonschaft believes that for some kids, starting them a little later, might **actually be better!** Think about it - you've all had a kid that was struggling and a year later blossomed. It's as if it just clicks one day. It's like BAM, something just clicks...or have they matured?



RETENTION & RECRUITMENT

Do what we have always done, but on steroids!

You are still going to do what you always do, fill the chairs in your room. We are going to recover from this, it will just be in a different way.

HERE ARE SOME TOP TIPS FROM DR. BOONSHAFT:

- Talk with private teachers
- Talk with older siblings
- Visit classrooms or
- "Zoom Bomb" classrooms - 10 classrooms in 10 minutes!
- Call Parents
- Call the kids who just dropped out in the first week of September, chances are you can get them back!
- Get the kids to play in the hallway or by the buses ***BE VISIBLE***

Understanding what our kids need post-pandemic

The first step is to understand how this past year has affected our students so we can effectively teach them. This applies to every grade level, there is a lack of independence in making music due to the vast accessibility to click tracks, recordings, and piano accompaniments. They don't need to stand on their own two feet like we did, even the way their peers did two years ago (pre-pandemic). Using a click track has somebody keeping time, probably a harmony is playing and this creates a **safety blanket around the student**.

The reality is it is going to take more time and specialized skill building to get our kids where we want them to be. We all have to be aware that this is what has happened over the past 12 months.

We need to prepare ourselves on how to fix it. The **basic ensemble skills that our students had**, the basic skills of standing on your own two feet **have diminished**.

How are we going to do it?

- Develop a curriculum for all of those ensemble skills
- More time in warm ups/training
- Take time to get trained to larger space (most students have gotten accustomed to singing inside their bedroom vs. a gym or theatre)
- Train their ears to the sound of a live band (they honestly haven't heard this in quite some time)
- Play music at the beginning and end of class
- Continue to use Flex Music - you will likely not have a balanced band for quite some time
- Pick music that is easier
- Performances hook kids, keep them engaged!
- Guided listening activities



Kids are like parking meters, it takes **ten seconds to grab their attention** and that will **buy you ten minutes!** It's just the way human brains are wired.

Our students have been deprived of social interaction, don't try to stop it, **harness it**. Build it into your lesson plan, let them do chamber music. Expect they are going to need opportunities to talk and to converse with others.

Challenge their souls, hearts and minds; **the technique will catch up!** Be their cheerleader!

The trouble with music appreciation in general is that people are taught to have too much respect for music they should be taught to love it instead.

Igor Stravinsky



What Hasn't Changed

One thing that will always remain the same is the affect that a teacher has on a student. It is all about the human being who can get a student to say, "I want to do this" and I think I can because you made me believe that I could!

We have **all been touched by one teacher** who has made a difference in our lives, someone who believed in you.

Their are three ways to teach:

1. Verbal/Written Instructions
2. Trial/Error
3. Imitation/Modeling

Dr. Boonshaft recommends for you to use as many of these ways as possible. It is a numbers game, inevitably you will have some students who will drop off your music program. It is your job to get as many students as possible into your program and then to treat them right.

What are some tips to do to be a inspiring teacher?

- Convince your students they are good at this
- **Praise them more for tiny steps**
- Review more often!
- Meet them where they are at - ensure you are giving them a piece you know they can master
- Send notes home for praise
- Do chamber music (build in social activities)
- Borrow from other disciplines (Math teachers are great at metacognition questioning. Ex. tell me how you got to that answer?)



- Have students teach other students, you learn so much by teaching another person, **(empower your students)!**

A good teacher will always find a way. Get creative and get connected to your students. No matter what you think, it is still about you. How many of you have seen programs rise because of a teacher and then fall when a teacher retires? We all have. You are giving life to music programs in your area and you matter more than you know!

"I have come to the frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element. It is my personal approach that creates the climate. It is my daily mood that makes the weather. I possess tremendous power to make life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration, I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis is escalated or de-escalated, and a person is humanized or de-humanized. If we treat people as they are, we make them worse. If we treat people as they ought to be, we help them become what they are capable of becoming."

