

Solving the Mystery of the Middle School Boy Choir

Daily Activities Designed to Build Skill, Knowledge and Enthusiasm

] Reese Norris

Body, Ear & Vocal Activation

- Warm-up -random hums, vocal slides, lip trills
- Creating Singers/Introducing Harmonies (like a ninja) – Begin Songs review
- Flipping the Octaves –
- Two Claps and a Rick Flair –
- Organize the Wiggles –
- Replace the Shotgun with a Rifle – show picture, chordal vocalise

Suppressing "The Jerk" – show clip

- Takadimi – credit Jamie Lee
- Start Small, Grow Tall
- Uses of Ties, Aside From Strangulation
- Confirm, Then Reaffirm

Melody

- Call & Response (sound) – on neutral syllable
- Call & Response w/Solfege (sound ~ symbol)
- Fun Exercises on Solfege (sound & symbol) - reference Joelle's sheet
- Abbreviated Exercises from SmartBoard (sound, symbol & sight) – usually 1 bar, etc...
- To the Books/SmartBoard (sound, symbol ~ sight)
- To the Lit (sound, symbol & sight - w/application) – BUT continue the isolated exercises

Theory - open PDF

- Basic Terminology
- Well-Paced Curriculum - **Designed** for Choir (3-5 min)
- Work the answers out COMMUNALLY from SmartBoard or INDIVIDUALLY on the Dry Erase
- Covers an Incredible Array of Theory
- Rhythm Issues
- Review / Section Could Be Assessment

Literature

- Specific Goals
- Can They Succeed?
- BOYS Just Wanna Have Fun
- Range Master
- Variety Pac

Working the Inner-Ear (brain) w/Tuning Forks

- Ring It & Sing It
- Adapt Using Solfege
- Learn Pattern
- Force Use – stay off the piano for giving pitches as oft as time allows and as much as you can remember

Organization

- Limit Movement around the classroom that often produces chaos with boys
- Increase Flow/Sense of Urgency
- Hard to Drive a Train That Has Derailed
- Increase Productivity, Reduce Lost time

Personal Accountability

- For the Group/For Themselves – Not just of Obedience
- Ownership
- Goals/Reflections