



# Learning Stations in the Elementary Music Classroom

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There seems to be a **Mystery** surrounding the subject of how to:

- Plan,
- Create,
- Implement centers in an Elementary Music Classroom.

# What are YOU going to call them?

Centers

Work stations

Learning Stations

Studios

Whatever you choose - be consistent!

# Teachers that use work stations find it:

- Promotes student independence and responsibility
- Allows students to take charge of their learning
- Connects the teacher with individual students - Individual assessment
- Creates Student Centered Learning



# ? Questions to ask yourself ?

(and make some lists)

- What do I want to accomplish by using centers?
- What standards and skills did I want students to work on?
- How am I going to set up the room?
- How often should I use centers?
- Where can I go for ideas?
- Why? Who? What? When? Where? & How? (WHEW)

# WHY?

- To create a student-centered environment in which students are responsible for their own learning, and to provide time for individual assessment.
- To differentiate for individual student needs/learning styles.
- Provide opportunities for cross-curricular connections.
- To promote social, emotional, physical, and cognitive growth.
- Plus they are hands-on, engaging and FUN!  
(if done correctly)

# WHO?

- I create centers for the upper grades only (2nd-5th grade) as I feel they are starting to become developmentally ready for successful individual/group work.
- You need to become aware of your opinion on this and decide (on your own) which grade levels you want to create and implement centers for.

# WHAT?

- Stations are centers at which students work in small groups or independently.
- Google/Pintrest “Music Centers” to find a plethora of ideas
- 3-5 students at each station (or larger - depending on your centers)
- Working in increments of 5 -10 minutes before rotating to the next station (I have found 7 min. is IDEAL)



# WHEN?

- After students have been introduced and experienced a certain concept/element, in class, and have become familiar enough to work independently with the given concept.
- Each center should be learned & experienced in a whole group situation first.

# WHERE?

- You know your room - How would you set up 5-7 stations?
- Keep in mind that noisy centers should be far away from each other

# HOW?

- You decided which centers your students experience
- You decided how students are put into groups
- You decided how long to spend at each center.
- Will ALL be done in one class time or split between 2?

# YOU MUST **PLAN** FOR SUCCESS

- Introduce one new station at a time.
- Organize each station.
- Choose a variety of stations with varying content and dynamic levels.
- Not every station needs to be high-level thinking thesis work....
- 3-4 students at a station work best in my situation (Total of 6 stations). Try different sizes for you tolerance level. Start with 4, then go from there.
- Choosing groups?
- Starting the timer? Rotate Signal?
- Frequency of centers.

# KEY FACTS:

- TIMING
- CONTENT
- DIRECTIONS for STUDENTS
- SUPERVISION

You need practice to make things run smoothly - just as much as the students do.....Don't be discouraged if your first attempt is not everything you thought it would be.

# EXPERIENCING CENTERS TODAY

- To expose you to different kinds of centers - so you can have an idea of what is out there.....
- FEEL FREE to take Photos/Videos of each station so you can make it yourself.
- Discuss own experiences with colleagues & what you would Add/Delete for each station in your own classroom.
- Hope it sparks a “want” to try centers in your classroom
- Last 5 min. - come back together to recap.
- ENJOY

# Where ideas can be found

- Pinterest: keyword - Music stations; Music Centers
- Websites/Blogs:
  - <http://ofortunaorff.blogspot.com> - search Music Center
  - <http://elementarymusicresources.blogspot.com/2013/05/music-centers.html>
  - <http://www.nafme.org/centers-music-class-yes/>
  - <http://www.mrsmiraclesmusicroom.com/2014/06/learning-centers-in-music-classroom.html>