

Observation Hours

March 13, 2023

Forest City Regional Elementary and High School

Forest City Regional School District

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Note(s):

- The entire school was K-12
- Students were under a half-day schedule

Middle and High School band (ages 10-18)

- 10 students
- Students had 10 minutes in the beginning of class to practice independently
 - Teacher approached each student separately and gave them compliments, advice, and constructive criticism
- Students arrived calmly, casually, and ready to rehearse
- After the “free practice period” was finished, students were asked to play from and to specific measures
 - Sections were repeated as needed until they were correct

4th Grade (Band)

- 8 students
- Many students had forgotten their instruments
 - Teacher kindly yet sternly explained why they HAVE to remember them, and ways that they can
- Students were granted 10 minutes to put together their instruments and play independently
- Because of multiple students not having their instruments, a note value worksheet was given to the students who could not play
- Mallet grip was enforced many times

6th Grade (Band Special)

- 7 students
- Students were to work and master a specific piece; “A Prehistoric Suite”
- Instruments included trumpets, trombones, tuba, flute, and snare drum
- Students were combatted with “leave the drama outside” when they would get off task and talk about irrelevant things
- Teacher claps and hums notes for them
- Better tone is encouraged through repetition
- Teacher explains common mistakes to players and how to fix them

2nd Grade (General Music)

- Upon students’ arrival, fights immediately began breaking out over seats being “stolen”
 - Students were to sit on a different square on the carpet
- Students objective was to learn a Saint Patrick's Day song
 - 25 students
 - Teacher first played the song and had them just listen
 - Teacher then explained that there is a game to it where students stand in a circle, pick a partner and do an Irish Jig
 - Teacher plays song again and has them begin
 - The game progressively gets more difficult when it goes from one student picking a partner to ALL
- The students had so much fun with this activity; everyone was participating and WANTED to participate
 - “Sing the song don’t talk” was his way of rerouting them when getting off task

- Some students would get out of hand and scream and run around; “Find balance between having fun and not doing what is expected”
- To conclude the class, they play the “Pizza Hut” song
 - This is the leeway into lineup

Middle and High School (Choir)

- 17 kids
- Students sing on risers and run through everything they have prepared for their concert “without nitpicking”
- They warmup collectively with a stretch, descending hums, “EEH-YAH”s
- Songs are ran through while she plays the piano part
 - I couldn’t even hear the students, granted, they were missing “key” students

4th Grade (Trumpets)

- 8 students
- To begin, everyone plays and holds out the same notes
 - Students are advised to “tighten corners” of their mouths in order to get a better sound
- Teacher claps beats at first to get them on beat
 - Students are instructed to do extreme marching band movements in order to make this possible
 - “You have to feel it”
- Tonguing is reminded constantly
- Teacher goes through each beat in the measure and won’t move on until everyone is playing them same note

- Students were unprepared
 - “You need to start at your own pace and slowly increase speed. There are no excuses.”

Third Grade (General Music)

- 19 students
- The St. Patrick's Day song activity was repeated