

Building & Celebrating Community in the Music Classroom



Starting in September, I award one student in each class with the “Musician of the Month” award. It is an award for a student who has shown great leadership and musicianship in class. Someone who is helpful and responsible. I thought about getting rid of this award last year because I wanted to focus on inclusiveness and team building, but chose to keep it for those kiddos that excel in my classroom. I wanted my high ability music students to feel proud of their achievements.

What do I do with the rest of the students who didn’t make the cut? I wanted them to still have a representation of their achievements in my class. How do I celebrate the student that volunteered demonstrating how to play something on the xylophone for the first time? Or even the student that is finally making good choices in the music classroom. I came up with the “Eagle Star” award (our mascot is the eagle) that represents ensemble/teamwork, effort and perseverance. It is simple, easy for me to put together and still a way to make the student feel proud of their success in my classroom. The goal is to get every student in our school a star sticker with their initials on it by the end of the year. We are creating a big treble clef on the bulletin board with these stickers. The students are enjoying the addition each week to the Treble Clef in my classroom.

This award is not only adding a sense of community in each classroom, but also with the entire school. It is celebrating the growth of each student. It is a way for the students to know they are a part of something special and that they matter!

Questions? Email me at lsjack@mpsomaha.org.