



Here are ten tricks and tips I love, since it's February, after all.

1. Sticky Notes app on my PC so I don't have to keep lists on paper, and my lists are there every time I open my computer.
2. Sit-spots on my carpet for seating arrangements and for marking where instruments go on the floor.  
<https://www.sitspots.com/>
3. Smart Seat app on the ipad for seating arrangements. You can take the kids' photos on the first day of class and drag them into different positions easily.
4. Rolling carts for my Bass Xylophones so I can move them easily around the classroom or into the gym for a concert! See the picture to the right as this is the one I have from West Music:



Basic Beat BBV567 Rolling Orff Stand

260087

\$119.<sup>00</sup>

5. Free fonts: MusiSync and MusiQwik  
so you can easily type and display music notes for PowerPoints, etc.
6. Going to as many national AOSA conferences as you can. You will never be disappointed.
7. Having a shared google drive folder for the elementary music teachers in our district. We share common assessments, activities, materials, etc. and many hands make for light work.
8. Wax Museum. It's my kids' favorite game and it's easy to leave for a sub.  
Pick \_\_\_\_ to be the watchman, and have the rest of them make BODY SHAPES in the open space, and make a point to try to keep changing their LEVELS. When the watchman isn't looking, the rest of the class moves behind him/her. (The rule is they HAVE to keep moving during the game, they can't just sit in the same position the whole game or you can call them out). But if the watchman catches anyone moving, then they tell them they're out and the out person goes to the out zone. Turn off the lights, hand the watchman a flashlight, and say go.  
Tips for the Watchman: It works best when the watchman takes a walk around and through everyone and then suddenly turns around to try to catch people that are moving behind him/her.  
Rules for the rest of the class:  
-They can't argue with the watchman. If they get called out, they have to quietly go sit out without making a fuss about it, even if they disagree.  
-They need to be quiet during the game. The way I play is that the lights start off, but if everyone is being loud, I turn one light back on. Then if they continue to be loud and I have to turn on the second switch, then they are done playing.
9. Using children's books for music programs. Need help? I would be happy to give you much more information on how this works or lend you a program. I have also learned a lot from other teachers who I know would be happy to help: Kelly Whissinand, Carolyn Stuwe, Courtney Homan.
10. My annual Veteran's Day Program. Each year, the kids learn a new song, and they also sing the songs in the concert that they learned in their previous years as well. Here is the concert order:

5th: This Land is Your Land  
5th, 4th: God Bless America  
5th, 4th, 3rd: You're a Grand Old Flag  
5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd: America, the Beautiful  
5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, 1st: America  
5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, 1st, K: Yankee Doodle  
5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, 1st, K: Star-Spangled Banner