

Make Choir Their Favorite Class  
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1. Be Their Favorite Teacher

- Greet every student at the door every day.
- Be the teacher that affirms them the most.
- Be the teacher that knows them the most.
  
- Concept: If you like them, they will like you.

2. Take Fear Out Of The Classroom

- Require all students to learn all first and last names.
- Require all students to have a conversation with all others.
- Develop a culture of affirmation.
  
- Concept: People “at ease” are better “risk-takers.”

3. Convince Every Boy That He Can Sing

- Require every boy to match pitch with you.
- Always find a way to compliment a boy about his voice.
- Require every boy to match pitch with his section.
- Find exercises that fit their ranges.
  
- Concept: Any student who “fakes” singing will quit choir.

4. Choose Great Music

- Find the best ranges for your tenors and basses.
- For beginners, choose mostly rhythmical music.
- Avoid SAB and 3-part mixed music if you can.
- For choirs with boys, consider SATB, SA(T)B, or TB music.
- Try to avoid songs that are “stupid.”
- Get a tenor/bass choir if you can.
  
- Concept: People join choir because they like to sing great music.

## 5. Make Your Class Orderly

- Develop a variety of quieting routines.
  - Reduce the number of times you need to quiet them.
  - If you need to, use grades for evaluating rehearsal skills.
  - Understand that many students need “carrots” and “sticks.”
  - Develop efficient ways to take roll and give bathroom passes.
  - Be the “pack leader.” Be the one who sets the course and steers the boat.
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- Concept: Most people don’t enjoy being in chaotic environments.

## 6. Develop Your Class Culture

- Do you ever develop personalized handshakes?
  - Do you have any rewards that are unique to your class?
  - Do you have any concert traditions?
  - Do you have any birthday traditions or traditions for holidays?
  - Do you ever develop nicknames for students?
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- Concept: Traditions make people feel like they belong.

## 7. Make Your Rehearsals Fulfilling

- Have good variety. Have 5-7 songs in the folder at all times.
  - Get the choir singing and being expressive early in the rehearsal.
  - Manage boredom. Limit time spent on activities that are less fulfilling.
  - Create lesson plans that have a good flow. More detail at first. Less later.
  - Consider learning the last page first and then working backwards.
  - Consider having student “judges” to evaluate if the concept has been learned.
  - Be efficient in talking. Choir members get bored if you talk too much.
  - Talk less and less as you near the end of the rehearsal.
  - Try to end the rehearsal on a “dessert” song.
  - Watch body language for early signs of boredom.
  - Evaluate their body language when your choir members leave the room.
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- Concept: “Customer satisfaction” is essential for a good choir program.