

# 10

# THE TOP TEN

10

**“Teach what you know you are not incompetent.”**

You will graduate with a four year degree in music education K-12 or more. That degree holds enough knowledge to survive any job you receive. Everything you know relates to all content areas in music and you will be able to teach it.

9

**“YouTube the greatest and worst invention of our time.”**

Going into a job that you are not comfortable teaching is a challenge when you are lacking some of the basic skills. What if there was a video out there that can help fill in the gaps? YouTube has many resources that can help you through and over the hurdles. For example, there are videos from college professors teaching the basics of string instruments.

8

**“Become a student while you are a teacher.”**

Get into the ensemble with your students and play/sing along either with your beginning classes or during the advance classes warm-ups. Playing with your students provides you a wealth of knowledge that you hadn't thought about since you were in their shoes.

7

**“You thought you were done taking private lessons when you left college.”**

This is especially vital for those teaching classes with instruments you have little ability on. Piano, Guitar, Violin, Clarinet or Trumpet are instruments a few lessons on from private instructors or colleagues will give you a leg up on teaching your classes.

6

**“Method books are not always correct but can get you through a year.”**

When you have your teaching position go into your classroom and look through the resources that are provided. This is what you will have to work from. Go through them before you students arrive create your lesson plans and be prepared.

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**“You can go anywhere, it’s in a book.”**

Look through the books you purchased during college there are bound to be ones that can refresh your skills in other areas. Also walk through the exhibits and browse through the books on hand find ones that fill the missing gaps for you individually.

4

**“Be prepared to fall off the bike and get right back on.”**

You will come across times when you don't know the answer, you teach something incorrectly, or a student corrects you. How you respond is key to your success, there are ways of using students to teaching something without looking as if you didn't know. Go back and reteach concepts you failed at in a different way to help the students be more successful.

3

**“Most of your colleagues will help for food and beverages.”**

Other teachers know what you are going through and want to see you be successful. Teaching is not a competition with each other. Most administrations will allow you to go out for a day and observe. Have your colleagues come in and help you teach before or after school. Sit down over a beverage and just listen.

2

**“Beg, borrow and steal your way to success.”**

Nothing in teaching is original just wrapped in a pretty new package. Do not be afraid to try new or uncomfortable strategies. When you see, hear or gain something that could work to implement it. Do not be afraid to ask for things you need, instruments, textbooks, etc from your colleagues or admin.

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**“If you just realized this was also a list of advice for teaching in your content area, you are going to be a great teacher.”**

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