



The Top Ten Reasons I Love BOC: Factors that Affect Retention

Bob Phillips - Alfred Publishing

Program Variables that Affect Participation in BOC

1. *Bob's Theory No. 1* = The more kids that participate, the more kids that participate!

A. Ideal percentages of involvement at each level.

Elementary	Ideal total involved = 90-100%
Band	40-50%
Orchestra	20-25%
Choir	30-40%

Middle School	Ideal total involved = 70-80%
High School	Ideal total involved = 50-60%

B. Drop out Rates

Students/Year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total loss rate over 8 years
At 5% loss	100	95	90	86	81	77	73	70	30%
At 10% loss	100	90	81	73	65	59	53	48	52%
At 20% loss	100	80	64	51	41	33	26	21	79%

2. Program Elements: How is it structured?

A. Curricular

Grade based grouping
Ability based grouping

B. Co-curricular

Concerts
Solo and Ensembles
Community Events
School Events

C. Extracurricular

Marching Band	Chamber Music
Fiddle Groups	Jazz Groups
Show Choirs	Mariachi Group
Musicals	

3. Repertoire: Using music to motivate

- A. Quality - What is its curricular purpose?
- B. Quantity - How much should we play?
- C. Difficulty Level - Play really difficult music or play easier music?

4. Learning Modes: Who are your students?

- A. Learning styles - aural, visual, kinesthetic etc.
- B. Experience levels - previous training and or mixed grade levels
- C. Ability levels - amount of training and innate abilities

5. Evaluation: Knowledge - Performance – Effort - Participation

- A. Bell Curve
- B. Criteria Based
- C. Achievement Based
- D. Portfolios

www.phillipsfiddlers.com

- E. Self-Assessment
- F. Peer-Assessment
- G. Teacher assessment

6. External Resources that affect motivation

- A. Private Lessons
- B. Youth Ensembles
- C. Musicals
- D. Alternative Styles Groups
- E. Church Groups
- F. Clinics/Residencies
- G. Guest Conductors
- H. Guest Performances

- I. Orchestra exchanges (trips)
- J. University visits
- K. Student teachers
- L. Community Service
 - Adopt a beginner
 - Service performances
 - Solo and ensemble coaching
 - Private lessons

Motivation

Top ten reasons kids join BOC

10. My Mom/Dad said I should/have to
9. The general music teacher was fun
8. I like music
7. The older kids say BOC is fun
6. It's social (I can belong)
5. Everyone is doing it. (All my friends are doing it)
4. I am trying to find out what I am good at
3. The teacher makes it sound really fun
2. The recruiting demo was awesome
1. I think the teacher is really cool

Top ten reason kids don't join BOC

10. My Mom/Dad said no
9. I didn't like my general music teacher
8. I don't like music
7. The older kids say BOC is lame
6. You can't do sports
5. I am too scared to try
4. Everybody quits anyway (I know someone who quit)
3. No one does it (None of my friends are doing it)
2. The recruiting demo was a stupid
1. I don't like the teacher

Top ten reasons parents agree to let kids join

10. They think /hope their child is talented
9. An older sibling was successful/enjoyed it.
8. They were successful /enjoyed it as a child
7. They are living vicariously through their child
6. The teacher/program has a good reputation among parents
5. They have seen/heard older groups and are impressed
4. They already own an instrument
3. They love music
2. They think music kids are a positive peer group in the school
1. The kids are excited about it

Top ten reasons parents prevent kids from joining

www.phillipsfiddlers.com

10. They were not successful as a child
9. An older sibling had a bad experience
8. They can't add one more activity on the child's plate
7. They think it will affect their child's academic development negatively
6. They don't like music
5. They think/assume their child has no talent
4. Money
3. They see potential conflicts with sports
2. They have seen/hear older groups and are not impressed
1. The teacher/program has a bad reputation with other parents

Top three reasons kids SAY they are quitting

Elementary- Uh, I don't know

Middle School- Uh, I don't have time to practice (sports)

High School- I can't fit it into my schedule

Top ten reasons kids actually quit

10. It's too competitive
9. This class has no value to me and my life
8. Everybody/my friends are quitting
7. My schedule really doesn't work
6. Extra curricular schedule conflicts (sports/music)
5. I am frustrated/bored
4. I am not learning anything or progressing
3. The teacher doesn't like me (perceived or real)
2. The teacher doesn't Care about me (I am not important/ I don't matter/I'm not good enough)
1. I don't like the teacher

Top ten reasons kids stay in the program

10. It's social/I love being a part of a group
9. I feel valued and important as a person
8. Extra curricular conflicts are always worked out
7. It work in my schedule
6. Everybody/my friends are in BOC
5. I am developing skill and progressing as a musician
4. I value what I am learning and doing
3. Performing is fun
2. I love music
1. I love the teacher

Top ten elements of success

10. Adequate instruments
9. Adequate Scheduling
8. Adequate facilities/technology
7. Adequate funding
6. Vertical coordination and cooperation
5. Horizontal coordination and cooperation
4. Quality curriculum/national standards
3. Quality recruiting
2. Quality teaching
1. Passionate teaching

Bob's Theory No. 2- It's the teacher

www.phillipsfiddlers.com