



Almost done: making the most of your student teaching experience

Student teaching can be the opportunity of a lifetime. It is the time where you get to practice your pedagogical skills, make invaluable professional connections, and learn lifelong lessons. This clinic will focus on several different ways you can excel during your student teaching and help you prepare for your first year of teaching.

1. Before the first day

- Observe classes
- Get experience teaching elsewhere
- Contact/meet your cooperating teacher
- Scope out the school

2. Get to you know your school

- Surroundings
- Rules and procedures
- Technology
- Review the curriculum
- People
 - Teachers
 - Staff
 - Students

3. Be prepared

- Practice your teaching
- Think of everything and then some
- Always plan too much
- Have a contingency plan

4. Be resilient

- Plan but be ready for change
- Be ready for failure
- Have a support system

5. Get organized

- Plan your day and stick to it
- Get everything ready the night before
- Complete things on time
- Schedule out your semester

6. Immerse yourself

- Show up early, stay late
- Go to everything
- Be a sponge and soak up everything
- Show initiative. Be ready to jump in
- Give everything your maximum effort

- Ask all the questions
- But be wary of the teacher's lounge

7. Get feedback

- From the music education professor
- From the cooperating teacher
- From the principal
- From the students
- From yourself

8. Develop healthy lifestyle habits to avoid being sick

- Sleep schedule
- Food and drink choices
- Wash hands often

9. Be professional

- Dress professionally within your budget
- Set boundaries in your interactions with students
- Be cautious on social media

Other tips:

- Be yourself. Don't just copy your cooperating teacher.
- Be genuine. Show that you care.
- Remember you are a guest in someone else's classroom.
- Be open-minded. Don't compare to previous experiences.
- Keep a "next year" notebook. Imagine yourself successful at your first job.
- Take lots of notes. Record/write down everything for future reference.
- Think of student teaching as a semester-long job interview.
- Network but don't burn bridges
- Get comfortable, yet professional, shoes
- Be patient. Things take time.



GET IN TOUCH!

Have questions or comments? Feel free to contact me!

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Mr. Molina endorses Yamaha Percussion, Vic Firth Sticks and Mallets, Remo Drum Heads, Sabian Cymbals, and Black Swamp Percussion. His professional affiliations include the National Association for Music Education, Percussive Arts Society, College Music Society, National Society for Steel Band Educators, and the Pi Kappa Lambda Music Honor Society.