



# Music Ed Insights



Three Insights to take with you from...

## The Non-Competitive Ensemble with Matt Temple

If you have ability-based ensembles selected by audition, have a clear rubric that explains the criteria for selection, and a process that honors that rubric. Communicate it to parents and students well in advance of the process.

Show through your words and actions that music-making is evaluated on a subjective basis, and competition is evaluated on an objective basis.

- Never present an honor or competitive success as “beating other groups” but rather as “this is an honor for us that you’ve earned.”
- Remember that students tend to really enjoy performing, and that’s what they’ll remember. If students start to get caught up in placements, consider participating in festivals and competitions, watching and supporting other ensembles, but leaving before the awards.

Seek out diversity, equity, inclusion, and access training opportunities for personal growth.

- Learn the vocabulary, with special attention to words that might mean different things than you think, like “racism” and “equity.”
- Read books, like *The Horizon Leans Forward* and *How to Be an Anti-Racist*

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