

# Where Everybody Knows Your Name: Creating Successful Partnerships in Student Teaching

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## Recipe for a successful partnership between student teacher and cooperating teacher...

Setting expectations +  
Preparedness +  
Building a relationship/friendship +  
Providing feedback +  
Collaboration

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= a partnership that makes a positive impact on the music program, students, and community!

### Setting Expectations

Both the student teacher and cooperating teacher should set expectations and responsibilities for each other.

<p><b>A student teacher's expectations for the cooperating teacher:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Be welcoming</li><li>- Make me feel comfortable</li><li>- Provide answers to any questions before and during placement</li><li>- Be supportive</li><li>- Lend a listening ear</li><li>- Give honest feedback</li><li>- Collaborate as a team together</li><li>- Be open to new ideas and experimentation</li></ul>	<p><b>A cooperating teacher's expectations for the student teacher:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Get to know the students</li><li>- Immerse yourself in the community</li><li>- Be brave/Take risks!</li><li>- Be prepared and professional</li><li>- Take criticism (but not too personally)</li><li>- Work hard</li><li>- Put other aspects of your life on hold</li><li>- Ask a lot of questions</li></ul>
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## Preparedness

The student teacher and cooperating teacher should take time to prepare for the experience before and throughout the placement.

<b>BEFORE the Placement</b>	<b>DURING the Placement</b>
<p><i>The student teacher should:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Contacting CT</li><li>- Establishing a line of communication</li><li>- Meeting up to set plans and goals</li><li>-ASK QUESTIONS:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Which repertoire are your students currently working on?</li><li>● What resources do you use in the classroom?</li><li>● Are there specific classes/groups you want me to work with?</li><li>● What are your expectations when it comes to behaviour?</li><li>● What time do you arrive at school in the morning?</li><li>● Are there any extra-curricular groups you lead/participate in?</li></ul></li><li>- Beginning to prepare material, learn scores, practice conducting and if possible learn student names.</li><li>- Visit the school</li><li>- Contact your faculty advisor and be aware of expectations from the University for both you AND your cooperating teacher.</li></ul>	<p><i>The student teacher should:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Make a plan to learn the students names ASAP</li><li>- Get to know other teachers and student teachers in the school.</li><li>- Introduce yourself to the Administration Team</li><li>- Prepare lessons and activities in advance, have your Co-Op look over them BEFORE the lesson takes place</li><li>- Experiment with new ideas and ways of teaching that you might not be comfortable with</li><li>- Stay organized with lessons, schedule, and reflection journals.</li><li>- Be involved in the community</li><li>- Do <i>everything</i> that your Co-Op does</li><li>- Reflect, reflect, reflect. In your journal, and with your co-op as much as possible.</li><li>- Get pumped to teach awesome kids!</li><li>- Communicate with your co-op and faculty advisor about your experience on a regular basis. Are you teaching enough? Too much? Not get enough feedback? Etc...</li></ul>

**BEFORE the Placement**

*The cooperating teacher should consider:*

- Contact ST to get a sense of their comfort level, energy and personality.
- Long term plan curriculum to allow student teacher freedom to experiment and learn
- Inform the students that we will have a student teacher, educate them on what that means for him/her and them.
- Start some of the repertoire the student teacher will teach.
- Plan and discuss what repertoire the student teacher will be involved in, get them scores and recordings!
- Communicate regularly via email or phone.
- Invite the teacher to come check out the school before the placement if possible.
- Give ST copies of the timetable, calendar of events, repertoire, method books, and access to pictures of students faces to start learning names before the placement.
- Learn what the requirements from the University are well in advance and plan for the placement accordingly.

**DURING the Placement**

*The cooperating teacher should:*

- Model excellent teaching and classroom management as much as possible
- Spend quality time assessing the student teachers teaching, this is not a vacation from teaching your classes!! Your focus has to shift from the students growth to the student teachers growth AND the students musical growth.
- Be flexible and easy-going with the progress of your classes... chances are they will learn concepts slower and progress through less than if you were teaching, but it's okay. Students are still learning and playing music.
- Be mindful of appropriate times and ways to interrupt a student teachers lesson.
- Listen to how the student teacher felt their lesson went before giving feedback. Listen as much as possible.
- Make time to share notes about specific aspects of the lessons.
- Reiterate main threads and ideas over and over again.
- Think of other interesting ways that the ST can be involved in the program when not teaching!

## Building a Relationship

- Feeling comfortable around each other
- Share aspects about yourself and your life
- Recognize both the similarities and differences about each other
- Being open and honest
- Model positive interactions with each other in front of students
- LAUGH and enjoy yourselves!

## Providing Feedback

Extremely important for student teacher to receive constructive feedback to help growth and understanding.

- Meet frequently to discuss lesson observations
- Questioning from cooperating teacher
- Reflecting first, feedback second
- Provide written and aural observations
- Filming lessons
- Providing other fixes, new methods to try

## Collaboration:

- Team teaching
- Planning daily lessons and activities together
- Asking for input and advice
- Planning events (concerts, trips, performances)

Feel free to contact us with more questions/comments or concerns about student teaching at any time!

### *Contact Information:*

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