Instrument: General Woodwinds

Magazine or Journal Title: Music Educators’ Journal

Citation:

Koster, Keith. *Revisiting Teaching Strategies for Woodwinds.* Music Educators Journal. (Mar 2010), Vol. 96 Issue 3, p44-52

Article Title: Revisiting Teaching Strategies for Woodwinds

Author: Keith Koster

Summary (Outline form):

* Do not treat a student differently even if they play an instrument that you are not very comfortable with
* Make clear expectations of learning fingerings, notes and having good tone
* Allow students to solve more instrument specific problems on their own
* Direct teaching vs. indirect teaching
* Allow class time for students to experiment with tone
* Make sure students are relaxed
* Airflow
  + - * Exercises- breathing exercises and continually listen for sustained pitches
      * students lean forward elbows on knees and feel belly expand has they breath
      * Have students lie down to breath then work on sitting and breathing, can buy devices to work on this
    - Embouchure
      * Look for a natural playing position
      * Talk about muscles involved in embouchure
      * Find sweet spot by putting mouthpiece in ¾ of the way and pulling it out while blowing to find best sound
      * For flute, have students practice blowing air in different angles, have them practice setting embouchure in the same place each time
    - Tuning
      * Practice matching pitches
      * Have students practice tightening and loosening embouchure to change intonation
      * Have 2 students sustain same pitch
    - Reeds
      * Pick brand that gives students a good sound frequently
      * Give listenings to students for inspiration
      * Make sure students know maintenance of reeds and they do it
    - Mouthpieces
      * Try to get rid of stock mouthpieces
    - Fingerings
      * Make sure to teach “proper” fingerings but allow students to know alternates
      * Make quizzes and templates to make sure students use correct fingerings
    - Teacher can but just a facilitator of the class, can be experiential