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Class Teaching Project Reflection

The class teaching project was a very quick lesson that we had to do. Lessons this short will usually go by really fast, especially since you have so much you could work on but very little time to do it. I liked how fast I was going with the pacing. Cutting out a lot of filler words will add up pretty quickly and it saves a lot of time. Going through warm-ups was pretty hectic just because we needed to get to playing the music. All of the constant warm-ups can get pretty annoying for the students after a while, and especially if we're doing a few of these projects in one class, I didn't want too much to be focused on warm-up. I wanted that to just be a basic idea of the skills we would use later. That being said, my talking was a lot quicker than normal, and a couple of the things I worded came out not so great. This probably will just come with more experience, getting used to all the various things that will happen during rehearsals.

Next I went onto working on the piece. I first had everyone practice their own part for a little so they could get the fingerings in. I feel like this is really beneficial because I don't have to run-through certain parts just to let the kids get used to just looking at the piece. This way they can learn at their own pace, and hit the spots where their specific instrument had a hard spot. I know for my specific piece the cellos/basses hard spot was different than the violins/violas. I also got a compliment from someone that they liked how I gave them a minute to look over the music

and to come around helping them. When I walked around there was even one group that said, "Hey could we use this fingering? It looks easier" and we fixed it quickly and easily.

Next, we went to putting the cello and bass line together. For the little time we had, they had the hardest part. The violin and viola part were much easier than that one section, so I had them finger along their hard passage. Again, I probably could have worded a couple examples better at this point, but everyone got the gist of what I was saying. If I had more time, the section I isolated with the cellos and basses, I probably would have run it through again with everyone together so they knew how their sound was supposed to fit into everything. After that, I only had time to run-through the second half of the piece again. If I was able to have more time, I would have fixed more things throughout the class. I was able to say one or two things to change, but to get more than just one thing done. I had to keep moving. Things like bowings and articulation were not quite the sound I wanted. Dynamics could have been better, but they were definitely making quick progress when I said something about it. Again, if more time I would have said something like switching bow lanes, or cleaning articulation to help dynamics, stuff like that in order to fix the sound. The experience was pretty much how the video was. It seemed like it went by fast, and it did. Trying to run through so many things got it to speed up, and you could see that in the video by how I was talking and running the rehearsal. Overall, it was nice to get up in front of everyone and rehearse a piece. It's good practice for everything and helps get more podium time.