

Becoming a Requirement-Based Studio

from Robin Keehn

Do you think you 'should' be a requirement-based teacher but you worry it will be hard or you'll have to change your personality? Let's talk about what it really means and how it works. This is not an all or nothing proposition!

Introduction to Requirement-Based Teaching and a Requirement-Based Studio

Why Requirements Matter

- Requirements ensure consistency and quality in student progress.
- Establishing clear expectations from the start reduces misunderstandings and increases retention.

The Baking Analogy

Meeting specific requirements is essential for success in music education.

Studio Requirements Overview

Effective Communication:

- Discuss studio policies and requirements at the Free Introductory Session (FIS).
- Clear communication upfront prevents future issues and ensures higher retention.

Suggested Key Requirements:

1. Parental Involvement:

- A parent must attend and participate in the lesson.
- A parent must protect and supervise their child's practice time.

2. Attendance and Make-Up Policy:

- No make-up lessons. Students must find out what was covered from peers if they miss a lesson.
- Punctuality is essential; arrive on time and stay for the entire lesson.

3. Materials and Payment:

- Purchase and use Student Home Materials.

- Enrollment in Autopay is mandatory.

4. Year-Round Learning:

- Lessons continue throughout the year, including summer.

Activity: Reflect and Improve

Reflect on Current Studio Functioning:

- Take 3-4 minutes to write down everything that is going well.
- Share these positives with the group.

Identify Areas for Improvement:

- Take 3-4 minutes to consider one or two things that could make your studio operate better.
- Share these ideas with the group.

Requirement-Based Teaching

Effective Instruction

- Give clear instructions instead of requests.
 - Example: Instead of saying, "Will you please bring your playlist next week?" say, "Be sure to bring your playlist next week."

Consistency in Expectations

- Ensure that students understand and adhere to your requirements consistently.
- Rephrase and reinforce instructions as needed to maintain authority and clarity.

Say what you mean and mean what you say.

Thank you for attending! Implementing these strategies will help you run a more efficient and successful music studio.

