

❖ Vision Alignment “Management”

Does this move my group closer to the OmniJam? Does it bring them closer to a state of being that allows energy and music to flow through the entire ensemble? Align your management with this vision, or insert your own vision here.

Does your management encourage autonomy? To reach OmniJam the students will ultimately make their own choices. Does the management encourage autonomy and self regulation? Encourage both by posing questions rather than making demands. “Are you playing with us or over us?” rather than, “play softer.”

- “Are you in control of your body/voice?”
- “Are you hitting or playing the drum?”

Does your management encourage reciprocal dialogue? Your circle will be stronger if the reciprocal conversation you want in your music is reflected in your management style. Short one-on-one conversations can be effective to build and maintain rapport.

- “Are you ok?”
- “Is there anything I can do to help you be at your best?”
- “Here is what I’m seeing... am I seeing this right?”
- “I have seen two versions of you ‘A’ & ‘B’; A is helping our ensemble, B is making things difficult for our ensemble. How can we get ‘A’ to show up?”

Does your management encourage interdependence? When individual actions are geared toward the needs of the whole ensemble, it will create an environment that supports OmniJam. Does your management take into account the present and future needs of the entire ensemble, including your own?

- “Are you playing with us or over us?”
- “Does this serve our group's music-making?”
- “Does this serve our groups physical, social and emotional wellbeing?”

NUGGETS:

ANTI-MODEL: A lighthearted way to deepen a student's understanding of their role is to allow them to think about and explore the opposite of ensemble expectations. What does it look like to be out of control? What would someone who is out of control of their body do? What would someone who is NOT serving the group do?

PLAYING WHILE TALKING: Use these phrases to keep hands off of instruments while you're talking to save your voice and sanity:

Drums: I say, “hands on your lap”, you say, “just like that” while patting your hands on your lap. This exercise keeps the ensemble in sync.

Hand Percussion & Boomwhackers: I say, “ready position”, you say, “ready to listen” with the instrument gently on the ground or back in your chair.

