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## Proactive Classroom Management in Elementary Music

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# Proactive Classroom Management in Elementary Music

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Classroom management can be a complex task, especially for those who have not yet acquired the requisite “tools” in their “toolbox.” Rather than only looking at classroom management from a “response” perspective, the elementary music teacher should consider proactive strategies that head off problems before they emerge.

## Relationships

**Cultivating meaningful and culturally-sensitive relationships with parents and guardians**



*Supporting a student at one of their basketball games shows care and interest in their success beyond the classroom.*

- Take the time to learn about your students and their lives [1]
- Privately address misbehavior to avoid embarrassing students [2]
- Support students at school events and in their non-academic endeavors [3]
- Keep an open line of communication between the teacher and parents/guardians [4]
- Send positive communications home when possible [5]
- Be attuned to cultural differences in communication [4]

## Material

**Creating engaging lesson material that limits off-task behavior**



*I had great success from both an interest and a pedagogy perspective after I replaced my boring quarter note and rest cards with “spooky Halloween notes.”*

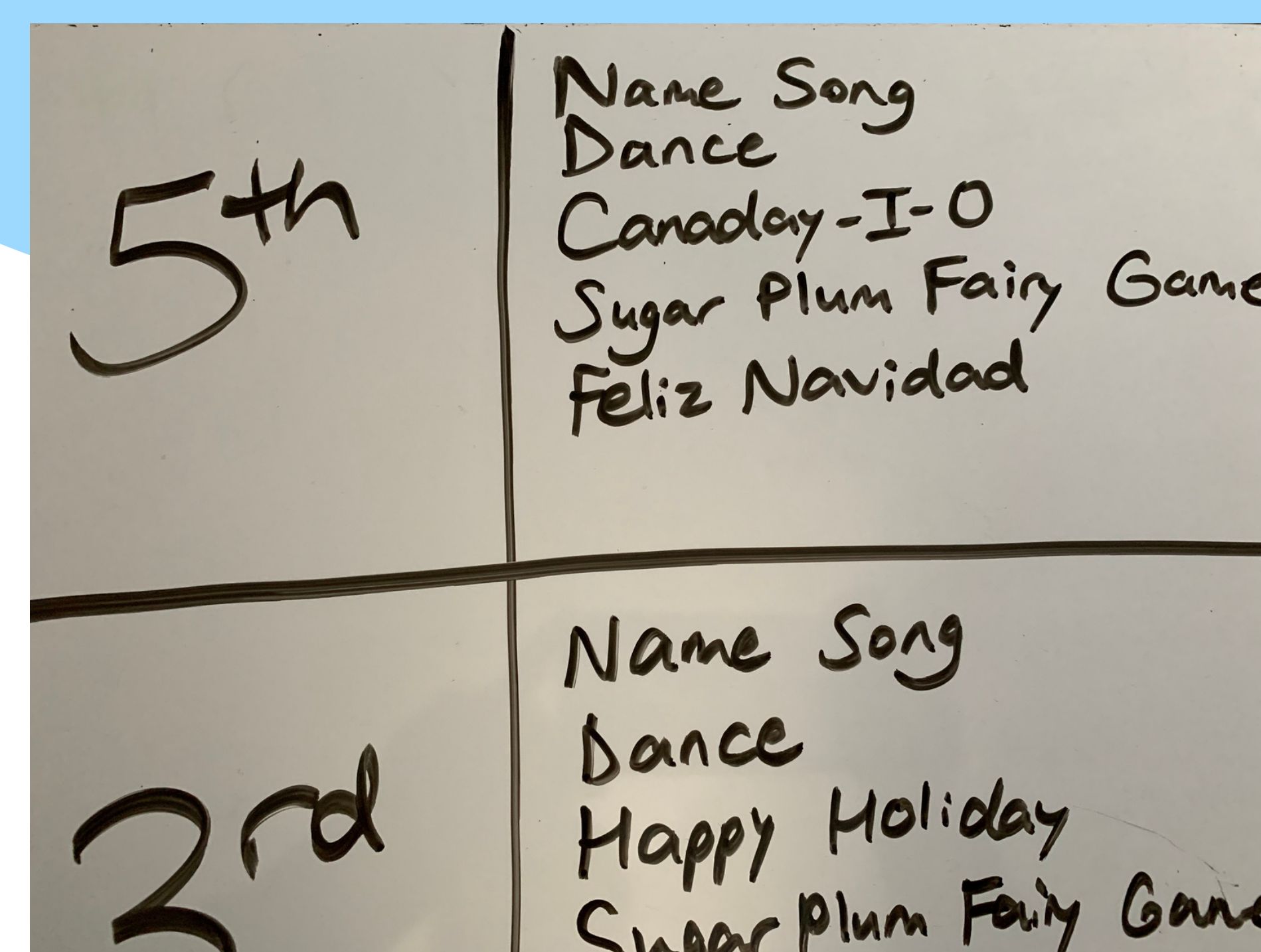
- Use lesson material that is interesting to both the students and the teacher [6]
- Always demonstrate interest in the activity [7]
- Use brightly-colored, fun visuals to capture the students’ attention and imagination [8]
- Avoid downtime, as that is usually where misbehavior begins [2]
- Develop lessons that allow for teacher movement to subtly address minor issues [9]
- Keep students on their toes with a mix of high-energy and low-energy activities [10]
- Consider the daily, weekly, and yearly schedule when creating your plans [10]

## Routines

**Establishing clear routines to scaffold the less-structured nature of the music classroom**

- Establish clear expectations for routines immediately and spend time practicing them [6]
- Stick to the routines closely [6]
- Share a daily agenda to spark interest and help students feel prepared for the day [9]
- Dedicate time to relearning routines after breaks [2]
- Have high-level expectations and hold students to them [9]
- Remember: small deviations from routines will quickly become unmanageable ones [9]

*Sharing the daily agenda helps me stay on track with the lesson and helps the students feel more prepared for the class.*



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