



MATH SENTENCES AND MUSIC

A lot of schools are trying to raise their math scores. Here is a lesson that can help in that pursuit!

Objectives

- ❖ Students will write number sentences to represent a 4/4 measure
- ❖ Students will be able to see the relationship between math and music!

Materials

- Note Knacks and Time Signature Frames
- Classroom Instruments

Methods

1. Ask students to make an addition number sentence. Example) $1+1=2$
2. Explain that this number sentence is true in music, as well, but we count beats. 1 beat + 1 beat = 2 beats
3. Now show students the 4/4 Time Signature Frame and ask students how many quarter notes fit into it.
4. Ask a student to come up and place 4 quarter notes on the Frame.
5. Ask that student to now make a number sentence to represent it: $1+1+1+1=4$.
6. Ask your class, "What if I replace 2 of the quarter notes with a half note? What will the number sentence look like then?" ($1+1+2=4$)
7. Ask students to come up and compose a measure.
8. Students can call another to write the number sentence.
9. After each example, have a student play the rhythm on a drum.
10. Keep going until everyone has had a turn.
11. Because kids are older, the rhythms can be complicated. This is a great opportunity to expose your class to just how complicated a rhythm can get!

Assessment

- ✓ Did the student create a rhythm that fit in 4/4 time?
- ✓ Did the student tap it correctly?
- ✓ Did the student write it correctly as a number sentence?

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Extra possibility

- This lesson can be used in Phase 3
- You can divide the class into 2 groups and make this into a game.
- The difficulties will not only be in coming up with the number sentences, but also in being able to play it!
- Depending on the grade level, you can choose to keep 2 eighths together and 4 sixteenths together or separate them to really make it difficult!
- Add rests to make it that much more interesting!

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