

Advocacy at Open House

by: LaVada Studley

Open house (meet your teacher night) can be the most exciting and disconcerting evening of the year, even after 29 years of teaching. I am thrilled to share my enthusiasm for teaching, but feel challenged when faced with a short ten minutes to convince parents of the importance of music education in their children's lives

When parents enter the classroom, there is already a musical example (see inset) on the board. The example includes notes, clef, dynamic sign, tempo marking and time signature, which are numbered. I ask parents to identify and explain these while keeping track of those that they identify correctly. After the laughter subsides, I explain that their son/daughter is able to read the music while also

producing an adequate breath, executing accurate rhythm, fingering, and utilizing good technique, articulation, tone and intonation. All of this in a split second, all while preparing for the next note. Finally, I ask parents to solfege the example (which may lead to more giggles.) This short presentation demonstrates the skills that their sons and daughters are developing in chorus and band classes. Because most parents realize that the skills of self-discipline, cooperative learning and confidence will be learned, this example provides the opportunity to explain the

academic value of making music. I want parents to understand that students will improve their critical thinking and problem solving skills as well.

Though the amount of time available at open house is often brief, the opportunity to advocate for music education is valuable and necessary.

LaVada Studley teaches band and chorus at Lawrence Junior High School in Falmouth. She is Past President of MMEA.



Boston University College of Fine Arts School of Music

Balance the intensity of conservatory training with the broader perspectives of traditional liberal arts education.

Study with a faculty drawn from the large number of topflight professional musicians who reside in the Boston area, including members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Engage in the rich cultural and intellectual life of Boston.



Bachelor of Music
Performance
Theory & Composition
Musicology
Music Education

Certificate Programs
Artist Diploma
Performance Diploma
Opera Institute

Master of Music
Performance
Conducting, Orchestral & Choral
Composition
Historical Performance
Musicology
Theory
Music Education—on campus and online

Doctor of Music
Performance
Historical Performance
Conducting, Orchestral & Choral
Composition
Music Education—on campus and online

Tracy Rider,
Director of Admissions
800-643-4796
or 617-353-3341
www.bu.edu/cfa

