

# The Art of **TEACHING** the Arts

## Program 6: Fostering Genuine Communication **Music**

### SEGMENT 4 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**Janice Hunton**  
14 years teaching

---

#### About the School

**Arts High School**

Perpich Center for Arts Education  
Golden Valley, MN

**Type:**

Statewide residential program/  
Arts-focused public high school

**Grades:**

11-12

**Students:**

300  
Very mixed socio-economic status

**Majors:**

Dance, Literary Arts, Media Arts, Music,  
Theatre, and Visual Art

---

#### About the Music Program

**Faculty:**

5 (2 full-time, 3 part-time)

**Students:**

75-80

**Facilities:**

Above Average in the Area

- Performance hall
- 2 music classrooms
- Choir rehearsal room
- 10-station keyboard/midi lab
- 14 soundproofed rehearsal rooms
- Recording studio
- Sound booth with 3 isolation rooms

**Audition:**

Admission involves both academic and  
artistic evaluation.

**Required Courses:**

Participation in four seminar classes per  
year including Electronic Music, Theory,  
Interdisciplinary Studies, World Music,  
Composition, History, Technique,  
Improvisation, Vocal Performance, and  
the Role of Music in Culture. Students  
also must participate in four ensembles  
and one Interim class lasting three  
weeks.

**Elective Courses:**

Music Theory, Guitar Theory,  
Composition, Improvisation, Electronic  
Music, Music History, European Music,  
American Music (Blues), World Music,  
Music Business, Career Investigations,  
Architecture and Music, Music  
Ensembles, and Choir

---

#### About the Featured Class

**Vocal Performance Seminar:**

Voice students explore techniques  
in using their voice, develop an ear  
for vocal color, and build critical  
awareness skills through practice  
with self- and peer-critique.

**Preparations/Prerequisites:**

None. Students sign up for this  
course based on their interest.

**Student Motivation:**

High

**Student Level:**

Mixed

**In the Teacher's Words*****What do you like about  
using the "descriptive  
praise" technique?***

*If people are just out there saying  
"great job!" students aren't going  
to believe it. Descriptive praise  
leaves the evaluation up to the  
person who's doing the  
performing. One of my students  
said, "You're just hearing facts  
and then you can make your own  
judgements based on the facts  
that you're hearing."*