

# The Art of **TEACHING** the Arts

## Program 1: Principles of Artful Teaching

### Developing Students as Artists

#### SEGMENT 1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**Carmen Laboy - MUSIC**

20 years teaching

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#### About the School

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**Christopher Columbus H.S.**

Bronx, NY

**Type:**

Urban/Comprehensive

**Grades:**

9-12

**Students:**

4,000

Low/Middle socio-economic status

**Arts Requirement:**

New York has a 1-credit art or music requirement (180 minutes per week for one year)

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#### About the Instrumental Music Program

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**Faculty:**

1 full-time

**Students:**

175

**Facilities:**

Above Average in the Area

- Band room
- Instrument room
- Multipurpose auditorium

**Required Courses:**

None

**Elective Courses:**

Beginner Band, Intermediate Band, Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Pep Band

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#### About the Featured Classes

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**Beginner Band:**

Students who have never had an opportunity to play an instrument before learn how to play an instrument of their choosing and participate in an ensemble.

**Preparations/Prerequisites:**

Students must be interested in learning to play a band instrument. They must be committed and have passing grades in other classes.

**Student Motivation:**

High

**Student Level:**

Novice

**Typical Subsequent Course:**

Intermediate Band

**Jazz Band:**

Students learn traditional Big Band and Latin jazz music, which is especially challenging rhythmically.

Professional jazz musicians who live in the neighborhood come in regularly as guest artists to play alongside the students, offering tips and coaching.

**Preparations/Prerequisites:**

Students have been in Concert Band and are particularly gifted since there is only one instrument per part in Jazz Band.

**Student Motivation:**

High

**Student Level:**

Advanced

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#### In the Teacher's Words

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***How would you describe your role as a teacher?***

*I believe that what I should do as a teacher is bring out the best from each student. I'm not only here to teach about music. I'm here to teach about different aspects of life.*

*Sometimes that means sitting down and listening when a student has gotten a bad grade, or if something has happened to them personally. You have to make the time.*

***How do you help students pick the instrument they want to study?***

*I get some of my students from the advanced bands to come in and play a little part of a song so the beginners can see, this is a student just like me. It's my peer. It's not the teacher that's playing the instrument. It's a student -- maybe I can get to be like him or her.*