

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."*