

PRESIDENTS' MEETING

December 3, 2023



TONIGHT'S AGENDA

1. Welcome!
Info in the Chat, Please

2. Reminders & Important
Mentionables

3. Monthly Contest Update

4. **Main Topic: Social Stories**

5. Your Feedback is Our Gift

6. Closure in the Chat

7. Good Night!



REMINDERS AND IMPORTANT MENTIONABLES



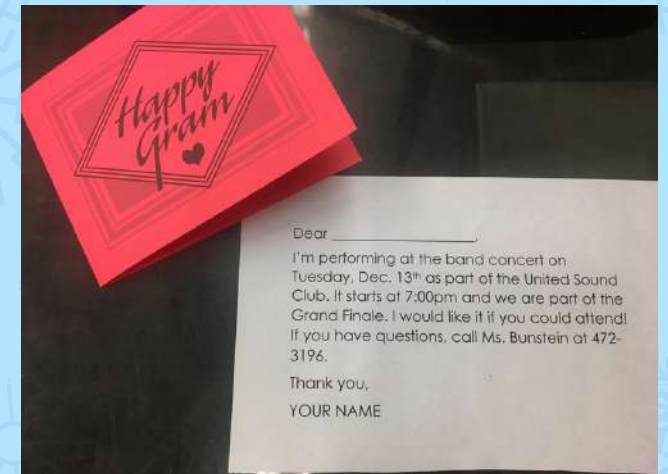
President Remind group
text @4h6cfhf to 81010
Participant Remind group
text @fk76b3 to 81010



What are your hands
doing?



EVERY
New Musician,
please



Invitations and/or
Thank You Cards

Remember to use our United Sound Presidents' Page as a resource!

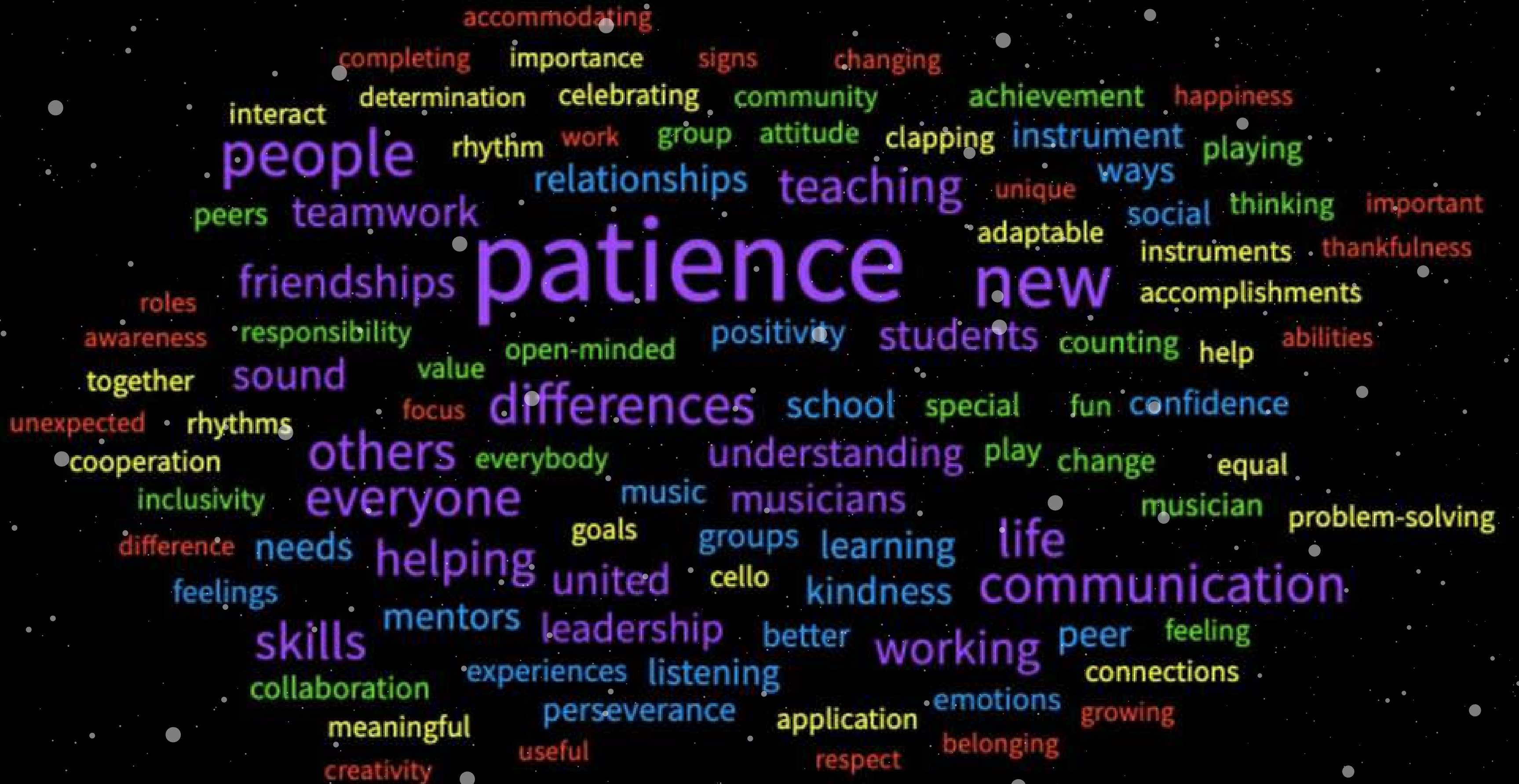
MONTHLY CONTEST November Participants

Campo Verde High School, Century High School, Creekside Middle School, Daniel Morgan Middle School, Elkhart High School, Germantown High School, Independence High School, Johansen High School, La Porte High School, Parkway Central Middle School, Perrysburg High School, Rock Ridge High School, South Valley Junior High, Stone Bridge High School, Willard Middle School

ATTENTION! INDIVIDUAL WINNERS
will be receiving their special gifts in the mail
next week! If your school is listed above, your
name may have been drawn to win!



MONTHLY CONTEST RESULTS



WINTER SEASON QUESTION

Because of Winter Break, these submissions are due on Tuesday, JANUARY 23rd, 2024!

**[Click Here for Winter
Contest Question](#)**

TONIGHT'S MAIN TOPIC

Social Stories

Social stories are visual or written explanations in short and simple stories that are used to explain to someone what to expect in the future in order to decrease anxiety, teach rules, or even demonstrate social cues.



MORE ABOUT SOCIAL STORIES

Social Stories should be individualized for new musicians with language and pictures selected at the right level. They should **describe** more than they direct, **answer WH-questions**, use **reassuring language** and **not contain judgmental language**.

WAIT, ARE THERE RULES FOR SOCIAL STORIES?

Social Stories follow a logical sequence, providing information in a positive, simple and clear manner. The title describes what the story is about. A good title should be positive, simple and engaging. It should focus on what the new musician can do, rather than what they cannot do.



WHAT DO I DO?
HELP!?





Do you think you're
ready to try making
your own Social Story?

[CLICK HERE TO CHECK OUT SOME TIPS!](#)



YOUR FEEDBACK IS OUR GIFT

**Thank you to the schools
who completed a
Rehearsal Feedback Form
for November!**

Roswell High School, GA

South Valley Junior High, AZ

Lake Asbury Junior High, FL

Germantown High School, WI

Perrysburg High School, OH

Independence High School, VA

Carmel High School, IN

YOUR FEEDBACK IS OUR GIFT



What have been your greatest successes/accomplishments during rehearsal this month?

- We have prepared for our winter concert on the 30th. Normally, we have Chamber orchestra accompany us, playing the theme part, but this time we were able to get mentors to play along and create a full sound on our own.
- I was able to help students blow air and learn rhythms with their instruments
- We half played Christmas concert music.
- Retaining focus and attention and having tons of fun!
- Introducing the stage to the new New Musicians
- We have gotten pretty deep into our concert music and have done a few good games which have kept some pretty good engagement in our class!
- Our school just got started late in October so this month we have been able to talk with our new musicians, pick out instruments, and build stronger connections between mentors and musicians. A lot of our musicians have been really excited to play and get started each meeting. We have worked to build a routine with our musicians in this month.



YOUR FEEDBACK IS OUR GIFT



What challenges have you had during rehearsal this month?

- **Mentor focus has been difficult. Some mentors distract each other, so we will play around with seating assignments.**
- People not putting their instruments away when we're doing an activity
- **Focusing and getting the kids to play.**
- Some members and musicians haven't been showing.
- **Concert seemed to be awkwardly places after Thanksgiving break**
- I think our biggest challenge is mostly just keeping some students on task. Some of the new musicians' eyes tend to wander a little more and keeping track of our own small groups while also helping keep track of them can sometimes be a challenge.
- **Some of our new musicians sometimes get distracted and no longer want to keep playing. We have tried to solve this issue by finding ways to make the meetings more engaging and implementing more positive encouragement. Sometimes taking short breaks between playing has helped keep the new musicians engaged.**

YOUR FEEDBACK IS OUR GIFT



What activities and/or games did you incorporate into your United Sound rehearsals this month? What was successful? What didn't work?

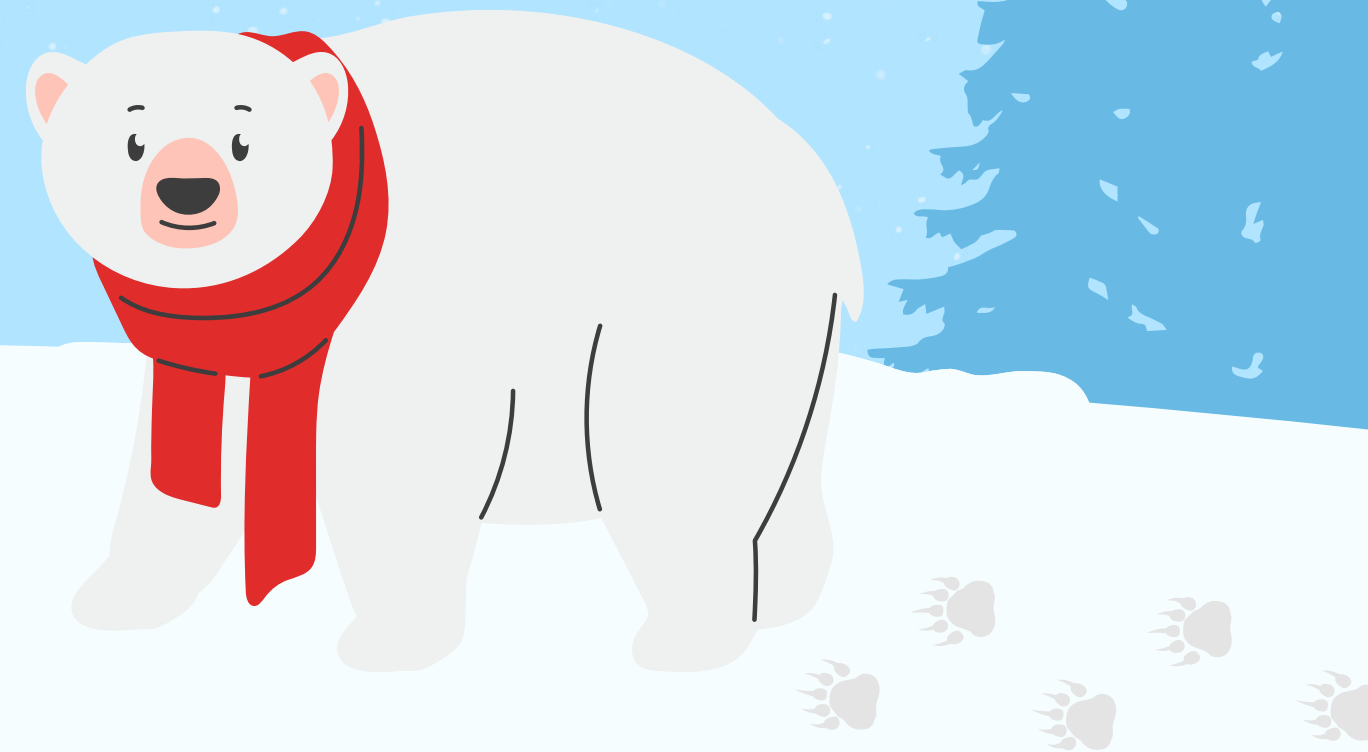
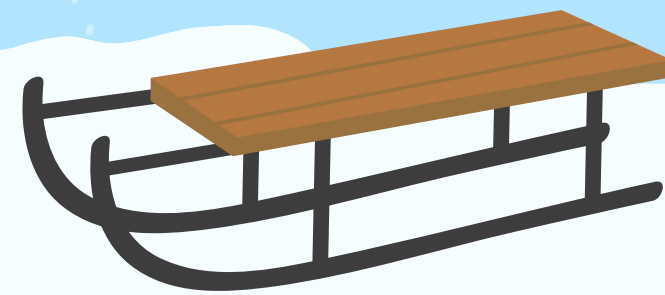
- We did I love my neighbor who. This is the second time we have done this activity (once last year) and it provides a good self-sufficient game. The co-presidents are able to set up and copy other parts while the game is going.
- Having posters for each group to represent what brings us all together as one
- Simon says, stretches
- We played a youtube video for Just Dance and everyone loved it!!!! We also played kahoots in our mentor groups but it took a ton of time to do. We also played music four corners which was a lot of fun.
- Watch the conductor, drawing game, concert warm-ups
- We did several games like full band trivia, draw what you feel, and making hand turkeys. Most all of our games worked out pretty well, although sometimes the drawing activities are less popular (i.e. Friday we tried to do a "draw your small group as snowmen" activity and no one was interested in it).
- We used a lot of ice breakers at the beginning of the meeting. It was great to get to know the new musicians and other mentors especially since we met them so recently. Playing in a large group didn't work as well, however this is likely because we have many musicians who are just starting to play and learn. We expect this to improve soon!

Using a scale of 1-5 (*with 5 being the best*), how helpful do you think using a Social Story prior to a performance will be (*or would have been*) for New Musicians in your chapter?

Be honest! It's okay!

Please explain your answer using a sentence or two. Thank you!

GOOD NIGHT!



See you next year for our first 2024 meeting on Sunday, February 4th!