

...what music teachers can learn about retention from scouting.

1. Recognitions (Patches & Pins)  
*How can we recognize advancing students other than placing them last on recital programs - which they may or may not consider a reward?*
  - Certificates or pins for years of study
  - Search on-line for patches
  - Studio plaques for achievement levels or solo recital
  - Medals, trophies
  
2. Teens value Service - *They like to give back and often need service points*
  - Nursing and Rehab Home programs
  - Helping out at Festivals, aural skills exams
  
3. Teens value independence
  - Offer several pieces - all of which are acceptable choices
  - Lend music to take home and explore - and time to make a choice
  - Give some choice in activities
  
4. Teens Waffle - Spring Registration
  - Ask for a commitment with a non-refundable deposit
  - Start the discussion early to give time to fill the space if necessary.
  - Give super-stars extra time to decide
  - Ask for a decision around recital time.
  
5. Teens have Short Memories - The Last Best Thing
  - Pick a recital piece that appeals to your student.
  - Keep a polished piece or a "Star List" that is ready to play
  - Remind them of accomplishments with evaluations at the end of the year.
  
6. Most Teens like Social Experiences and Field Trips
  - Age-level workshops and groups
  - Field Trips - to play an organ or harpsichord
  - Take your student along to a concert.

7. Most Teens are Risk-takers

- Invite them to PUSH the tempo once they're ready
- Challenge with a difficult exciting piece IF they're interested.

8. Feedback

- Tell your students when they are doing well.
- Talk to parents before its too late.
- E-mail or Text compliments.
- Encourage parents to give you a heads-up when practice has been "iffy" so you can add to in-lesson practice with sight-reading, listening work, etc.

9. Flexibility is Important – esp. in scheduling

*Be willing to adjust schedules for teens as their schedule get busier IF you can manage.*

10. Be Patient!

*Girl Scouts who sell cookies for even 1 year will be more likely to buy cookies as an adult.*

*Think about your legacy – do you think your students as adults will encourage their children to take lessons?*

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