

29 The Chromatic Scale

To introduce to the chromatic scale, I use the Beginner Fall Warm-up - lines 7 & 8. It can be printed from the show notes for Episode 28.

Take aways from my 'Love of the Chromatic Scale' story

1. Hearing students individually daily increases the odds that they will practice daily. Change up the routine.
2. Challenges/Extra credits can affect different students in different ways.
3. Try to let every student be first chair (legitimately) - at least for a day.
4. Kids who are in the middle/bottom of the section in beginning band may become some of your best band kids once you inspire them.

Introducing the chromatic

Make it a big, FUN deal!

Have them write the milestone on their calendars.

The way we reach long term goals in band is one step at a time.

How to start

It's not what note you start on as much as teaching methodically & slowly

Teach 1 new note (and 1-2 old notes) per day, starting as early as possible

Teach in half notes with half rests in between so you can name / fingering

Take out half rests when they are ready, then speed up later

Teach them to look ahead and get fingers ready early

They must READ every note - no memory in beginning band (yet)

Fingerings

- C# - only 1 - let pinky

- D# - either banana or bottom sk (I prefer banana for chromatic)

- F# - MUST teach thumb & bottom 2 side keys (DO NOT TEACH TOP)

- Low G# - only 1 - top top right

- Low A# - explain the enharmonics (briefly or in detail)

- Low B - MUST teach thumb 1,2,3,4, banana. (DO NOT TEACH MIDDLE)