

## Ginger Ellingson

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**From:** Sam Uzwack  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 14, 2020 3:11 PM  
**To:** Ginger Ellingson  
**Subject:** 7/8 Choir 1/13/15

## 7/8 Choir 1/13/15

Tuesday, January 13, 2015  
9:38 AM

Hi Ginger,

Happy New Year! You started class right on time, and started by warming the students up. You make technique explicit during the warm-up exercises by demonstrating how...and how not...to breath and position your body.

We keep saying this over and over...YOUR CLASS IS SO FUN! There is joy in your teaching, and there is joy in the student's learning.

Nice job building-in a student leadership moment, when you asked who wanted to lead the exercise. Rhea jumped in, as did Ayana. You also give students ownership of the lesson, as you asked Adrian which song to start with.

When you did "Do Re Mi", the students were using hand signals as well. Miranda was playing with her jacket, and then simply not using them. Ok with you?

The mental gymnastics required to sing the scale leaving out "mi" are impressive!

I took a peek at your Canvas page, and it looks great. You use the conventions correctly and your grading was up to date.

How is Sean doing in your class? He has had some difficulty in other settings, but he appeared dialed-in during my observation. I was glad to see you asked Miranda to hold-off on her question until you were done explaining your point; this is something she needs help with. Once you were done, you went right back to her and answered her.

You had an interesting moment with Adrian and Srinidhi. You said, "I'm confused about how you can do this without your music" (or something along those lines). I would encourage you to be more direct in this instance. Simply tell them what needs to happen..."Adrian, Srinidhi, you need to have your music now." This falls under the category of precise language when making corrections or giving directions to students, something I pay a lot of attention to in my own practice.

I'm happy to chat about any and all of these notes, or any other topics you'd like to raise...just let me know!

Best,  
Sam

