

10 Professional Suggestions

- 1) Join professional music organizations, i.e. American String Teachers Association, National Association for Music Educators, Guitar Foundation of America, etc.
- 2) Consider taking a guitar workshop from Teaching Guitar Workshops. This 1-week class will provide you with instruction on how to teach in a classroom setting. Visit their site at: <http://www.guitaredunet.org/>
- 3) Align with local classroom guitar teachers.
- 4) If given a chance, attend any teacher in-services or professional development classes offering assistance with teaching guitar in the classroom.
- 5) Seek out a mentor.
- 6) Attend guitar ensemble festivals with or without students. This is a great opportunity to hear ensemble music and see how other guitar programs are organized.
- 7) Spend time on the internet seeking secondary guitar class websites. Take the best from the best and create your own image of a guitar class.
- 8) Build a guitar program vs. teaching a guitar class. Your program may include: weekly playing assessments, participating in solo & ensemble, participating in guitar ensemble festivals, scheduled concerts with themes, internal awards and programs for student recognition (i.e. Double Century Club, Perpetual Awards, Annual CD, Award of Completion, etc.), annual travel, field trips, guest speakers, a website, a club with officers, a parent organization group, etc.
- 9) Spend time on YouTube watching secondary guitar class videos of performances. Once again, this is a great source for ensemble music ideas, performance ideas, structuring of an ensemble, etc. YouTube is a tremendous resource.
- 10) Become familiar with the many websites related to classroom guitar and take full advantage of the many resources available at no costs. There is no reason to feel alone or unsupported. There are many resources and websites with helpful information. Remember that “free music” is not always what is best for your program.