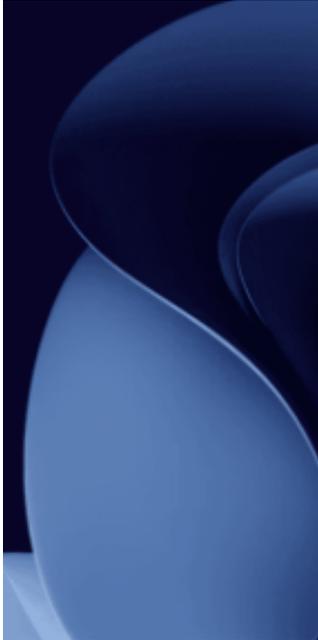




Music Teaching Matters

February 10, 2026 - No. 87

Clarity and change for today's music teachers.



Most music teachers know this situation well. An email from a parent arrives in your inbox. Their child has missed a lesson and the parent is writing to inquire about re-scheduling the lesson. The music teacher feels caught off-guard. How can this be happening? Didn't the parent read the studio policy about missed lessons? The teacher feels disrespected and undervalued. Click [HERE](#) to continue reading on this compelling topic.

All the best for your teaching journey,
Merlin Thompson

Creator & Founder of Teach Music 21C

Podcast Recommendation



#78 Student Ownership/Leadership

What does it look like when music teachers encourage our students to take ownership? How can music teachers empower our students to be leaders on their on musical journey? Join Paul McGlinchey and Merlin Thompson as we explore this dynamic topic. [Listen HERE.](#)

Lethbridge Teacher Sessions

**Are you a music teacher in the Lethbridge area?
Do you know about the upcoming Expand Your Music Teacher
Skillset workshops with Dr. Merlin Thompson?**

Session 1: The 20-year Question - March 28

Session 2: Create the Student's Journey - April 25

Session 3: Music Lessons for Trust - June 4

For complete details please click [HERE](#). Hope to see you there!

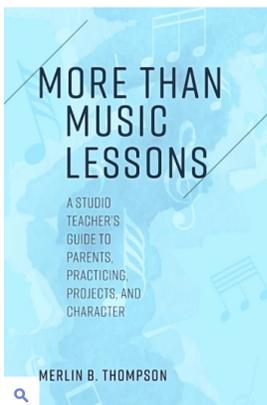
Sponsored by the Lethbridge Branch of ARMTA.

Grit Isn't Enough



Grit - also known as perseverance - has gained popularity as a driving force for pursuing and achieving long-term goals. What's fascinating is how researcher Adam Galinsky points out how grit may get you to the finish line, but without "authenticity" and "passion", it may be a hollow victory. Galinsky's research is a great reminder for music teachers - that empowering our students on their musical journey resonates most when it connects with who students are (authenticity) and what they're looking for (passion).

More than Music Lessons



Teaching Tip

Make caring relationships the trusting backdrop for good and bad news.

1. Listen with empathy and understanding.
 2. Advocate for honest reflection and genuine follow-up.
 3. Celebrate achievements and support setbacks.
- Order your copy [HERE](#) or spend a few moments of refreshment if you already have a copy.

Thought for Today

If your students stopped music lessons tomorrow, would they have sufficient musical competency or curiosity to obtain sheet music, follow a Youtube tutorial, or pick out something new on their own?

What would they need?

What have you done already to prepare them for their own musical

future?

What can you keep on doing?

What seeds can music teachers plant today?

Upcoming Dates

February 14: Presentation for Texas Music Educator's Association Conference.

February 19: Start date for TM21C Certification. Register [HERE](#).

February 26 & 27: Presentations for Suzuki Association of the Americas Conference.

March 17: Start date for Expand Your Suzuki Foundation. Register [HERE](#).

March 28: Start date for Expand Your Music Teacher Skillset. Register [HERE](#).

What to do with "I don't know"

Do you have students who respond to your questions with "I don't know"? Then be sure to check out these practical and informative resources:

- How to Respond to Students who Say "I don't know". Click [HERE](#).
- Why Patience is Important for Music Teaching. Click [HERE](#).

And if you'd like to share your thoughts on anything in this newsletter, please click [HERE](#) to send a message to Merlin Thompson. Thanks!



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