

# CDA BRIGHT SPOTS

**"Good teaching is more about asking the right questions than giving the right answers." - Josef Albers**

January 17, 2025



When Mr. Brandon asked his fifth-grade students for feedback at the end of Marking Period 2, he wasn't expecting what he heard—but he leaned in with courage and curiosity. Many students shared that they didn't feel like they were truly learning about music, as the class had focused heavily on preparing for the incredible JingleFest Christmas production. Rather than feeling criticized or undervalued for his hard work on the show, Mr. Brandon embraced their feedback with a growth mindset. He immediately shifted gears to teach music theory, giving his students exactly what they had asked for. His first lesson had students notating musical notes on paper and training their ears to recognize whether notes move higher or lower.

By giving his students the opportunity to reflect on their learning and empowering them to shape their experience, Mr. Brandon not only deepened their engagement but also fostered a classroom where students take ownership of their education. His actions remind us how powerful it is to listen to our learners and adapt to their needs.

