**Student Coordinator MS Best Practices & Opportunities**

**Best Practices**

1) Communication

Most Important: Deliver the right information at the right time (do not overwhelm)

* Send weekly email with the moves taught, dance opportunities, pertinent club information, links to websites, videos
* Provide handouts; level dance flyers
* Provide a syllabus and/or new dancer handbook

2) Engagement

Most Important: Make the students feel welcome and valued

* Get to know the students
* Let students know how happy we are that they are interested in square dancing and want them to have fun
* Provide students with name tags as soon as possible

3) Support

Most important: Let the students know that our purpose at lessons and dances is to support them

* Invite students to all student dances, offer carpooling or meet them there at a certain time & show them around
* Engage with students at student dances, introduce them, stay by their sides
* Stack squares to increase likelihood of success

**Opportunities Across Clubs**

1) Consistency - all students should receive consistent information from their clubs, including:

* lesson opportunities at other clubs
* dance opportunities at other clubs
* pertinent information; links to council website, dance lesson videos, taminations, etc.

2) Floor Time - students should be allowed the maximum amount of positive dance opportunities, by means of:

* schedule student dances so that there are no conflicts with other dances
* align lesson start dates (as much as possible) to help resolve differing skill levels at student dances, this will also enable students who may miss a lesson(s) at one club to "make up" the lesson(s) at another club
* establish a "call to floor" as best practice at all student dances

3) Recruitment and support at council level

* council advertise square dance lessons as a whole (billboard, lawn boards, valpack, fb, insta, etc)
* reference (perhaps qcode) to council website page with locations of lessons, then drill down to clubs; allowing potential students to easily see what's available in their area
* council support an "all students" graduation and/or recognition event

**Update 6/2/2023**

Student Coordinator Meeting

* Encourage attendance at angel workshops, empower callers and club members to discuss appropriate new dancer support directly with angels, distribute angel guidelines
* Consider changing student dance times to daytime
* Get students on the roster early so they receive council notes and new dancer handbooks
* Consider establishing club student ambassadors
* Ensure the students are aware of the website, student tab, list of moves, videos, etc.
* Consider charging one time fee for lessons vs. weekly to encourage commitment