CHARTS & TREES: QUICK WAYS OF REVIEW

Every day our classes start with a few minutes of counting, and in those first few weeks of school that is daily accompanied with non-counting review. We’ve already mentioned and shown our basic note chart. We will regularly erase the answers and ask the kids questions as we fill it back in.

Another way we will review through questions is with our rhythm tree, another idea that is neither new nor original but just another way to check for understanding.

In following my style of keeping information slightly entertaining, I use the rhythm tree in story form.

Once upon there was a whole note <draw whole note>, and it got how many beats?
   *Four*

And how many pulses?
   *Eight*

And we split it in half and got two ______.
   *Half notes*

And each half note got how many beats?
   *Two*

And how many pulses?
   *Four*

And then we split that in half and we had two ______.
   *Quarter notes*

And so on.... I use the review tree not only to test the students’ retention and understanding of how notes relate to one another, but it is how I introduce 8th notes and 16th notes.