

# Is It Winter Break Yet?

This lesson is fun and extremely valuable! Your kids will have to use their critical thinking skills, but there is plenty of room for silliness! How many times can you change a well known tune? Click below to find out!

**NAFME Content Standard 3:** Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments

## Objectives:

- Students will improvise rhythmic variations to a well known tune by changing the time signature

## Materials:

- 1 Set of NK Magnets
- Dry Erase Board
- Dry Erase Board Markers

## Methods:

1. Choose a fun winter song like "Sleigh Ride"
2. Have kids tell you the time signature and what it means (Sleigh Ride can be in 4/4, 2/4 or in cut time; depending on the version you use)
3. Write the words on the board for the first one or two phrases
4. Have kids figure out the rhythms for each phrase and place the appropriate Note Knacks Magnet above the correct syllable
5. Have the class check their work
6. Now change the time signature to 3/4 or 6/8.
7. Have kids rework one measure at a time to fit the new time signature.
  - a. Rests can be added
  - b. Phrasing can be changed
  - c. Your class can have complete freedom, as long as they adhere to the new time signature
8. When finished, have class sing the song in the new time signature and discuss how it has changed the feel and/ or meaning of the song

## Assessment:

- Could students create measures in the new time signature using the well known song?
- Could students read the song in the new time signature?