

Organization for Success

Dr. Tom Shine

What does being “organized” mean? We all hear that term being applied to various people whom we know: “He/she is so organized.” But what does that really mean?

Does it mean that everything is filed in the proper place; the music library is in perfect order; and the uniform room is perfectly laid out with each suit listed in order of size?

Does it mean that the director has a set of lesson plans on file with the principal for the entire school year by September 1st? Or does it mean that the director has a complete vision for his/her program that includes all students, every campus, and every grade level? While our opinion of the definition of “organized” might include all of these ideas and many more, it might be more critical to decide which ideas are most relevant to the success or failure of our programs.

When I arrived in Duncanville in 1980, I saw a program that I

thought had limitless potential to encourage and motivate students to reach the highest levels of performance.

Just as it is now, it was a diverse community of very hard-working parents who wanted the very best opportunities for their children. At one of our first band staff meetings, I mentioned that I envisioned building a band program in which an “honor band” caliber performance was a possibility every year, on every

campus, regardless of whether our groups actually entered the competition. I was met with some skepticism from the holdover staff, considering the high school band had won its very first

UIL sweepstakes in 5A just the year before. But in asking them why they did not believe it was possible, at least one of them said “organization” or, actually, the lack of it. Whether I openly agreed

with them that day or not, I made a mental note that organization would be one area, at least, that would not get in our way.

Please join us at the TBA Convention/Clinic this summer as members of our staff discuss the parts of our organizational plan that I feel have been the most

important during the last 25 years. It is an ever-evolving plan; we will let you know where we started how far we’ve come to this point, and where we would like to go from here!

**Plan to hear more!
The staff of the
Duncanville ISD Band
Program will discuss their
curriculum, alignment,
goals and expectations
for every grade level.
Tom Shine, Verda Shine,
Brian Beck and
Jeff King will present
their clinic on
Saturday at 9:30 am.**

Tom Shine is in his 25th year as Director of Bands for the Duncanville ISD and his 35th as a Texas music educator. He currently serves as the Fine Arts Department Chair at Duncanville HS, but has taught in the Angleton, Austin and Lampasas school districts prior to coming to Duncanville in the Fall of 1980. A 1966 graduate of Belton High School, where he played for band director Richard Crain, Dr. Shine received both a Bachelors and Masters in Music Education from the University of Texas at Austin and a Ph.D. in 1989 from the University of North Texas. During his graduate studies at UT, Dr. Shine served as an assistant to the late Dr. Nelson Patrick, then Director of Music Activities for the UIL. Dr. Shine is in his 20th year as Region XX Band Chairman for TMEA and UIL and has previously served as the Region President. He was a Vice-President for the TMAA for seven years, during which time he conducted both concert and marching band adjudicators’ workshops. Prior to that he served for two years on the TMAA Committee on Standards of Adjudication and Performance Practices. Dr. Shine has been a three-time nominee for the Denius UIL Sponsor Award and was the 1997 DHS Yearbook Dedicatee. In addition to TMEA and TMAA, Dr. Shines’ memberships include the TBA, the NBA, and Phi Beta Mu. His wife of 34 years, Verda Shine, is also a career band director in Duncanville. Their three children—Lindsey, Jonathan, and Nicholas—all played in the Duncanville Band Program and served as first chairs in the Wind Ensemble.