

Does Your Band C.A.R.E.?

...the answer lies within...

Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser

What makes band special? What creates that magical atmosphere we have come to know as the foundation of a band family? Perhaps it is all based on the ability to C.A.R.E. If one examines the common themes of great band programs, the quality organizations always focus on the C.A.R.E. of their fellow band members, their directors, and all those connected with the band program. Does your band C.A.R.E.?

The acronym is more than a clever label; it is the essence of why any group becomes successful. It is the elusive indescribable climate we all recognize, but often overlook in our quest for quality, and yet it provides the forum we all need to achieve a high level of musical excellence.

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COMMUNICATION

Is there open and safe communication among the members of the group? Do the upperclassmen spend time with

the new members? Do various sections of the band work together with a unified understanding? We know communication is the key to all forward motion and problem resolution. Encourage one another to reach out to other members of the group; harmony and balance apply to more than great music-making.

ATTITUDE

What kind of attitude is generated by the band members? Do people look forward to the time together in an environment based on positive support and encouragement? Since every individual has total control over his/her attitude, this may be the most important area of personal contribution to the band family. There is no substitute for a healthy attitude; it is as important as good intonation.

RESPONSIBILITY

The word literally means, "the ability to respond." Do people seriously embrace their responsibilities? Do they come to rehearsals ready to invest their

efforts and energies for the ongoing growth and development of the band's goals? Do they understand their personal contribution (both positive and negative) plays a crucial role in the outcome of the band's success? Does the group *respond* to the director in a fashion that will advance the entire organization to the next level of artistry?

EXCELLENCE

Is "excellence" the key-word for everything connected with the program? *Excellence is the by-product of seeking quality, and quality can be applied to every aspect of life.* Whether it is putting away music after a practice, straightening the rehearsal room, or practicing scales, all of these (plus every other action) needs to reflect a sense of excellence; to "excel," to go beyond the requirements, to put forth the extra effort.

The veteran band people know "the feel" of a band that CARES. We can buy all the right instruments, build a great band building with

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all the latest high-tech equipment, get access to a huge band budget, purchase the finest music available, and surround the band with wonderful teachers, but the secret ingredient comes from within the group; the ability to C.A.R.E.

Don't chase the dream by looking anywhere except within the band itself...if you do, you will be sorely disappointed. The answer lies in the hearts and souls of those who make up the personnel of the band. When the people IN THE BAND decide to unselfishly GIVE TO THE BAND, then we realize the value OF THE BAND; a gathering of wonderful young musicians who genuinely C.A.R.E. for one another.

Strike Up the Band!

Tim Lautzenheiser is a trusted friend to anyone interested in working with young people in developing a desire for excellence and a passion for high level achievement. His career involves ten years of successful college band directing at Northern Michigan University, the University of Missouri, and New Mexico State University. Following his tenure at the university level, he spent three years with McCormick's Enterprises working as Executive Director of Bands of America. In 1981, Tim created Attitude Concepts for Today, Inc., an organization designed to manage the many requests for workshops, seminars, and convention speaking engagements focusing on the area of positive attitude and effective leadership training. Over two million students have experienced his acclaimed student leadership workshops over the last three decades. He presently serves as Vice President of Education for Conn-Selmer, Inc. In addition, he continues his rigorous travel schedule touting the importance of arts education for every child.

His books, produced by G.I.A. Publications, Inc., continue to be bestsellers in the educational world. He is also co-author of popular band method, Essential Elements, and is the Senior Educational Consultant for Hal Leonard, Inc. Tim is the Senior Educational Advisor for Music for All, and NAMM (The International Music Products Association).

Tim holds degrees from Ball State University and the University of Alabama; in 1995 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the VanderCook College of Music. He is presently an adjunct faculty member at: Ball State University (Earl Dunn Distinguished Lecturer), Indiana-Purdue/Ft. Wayne University, and Butler University. In addition, he serves on the Midwest Clinic Board of Directors and the Western International Band Clinic/American Band College Board of Directors.