

TBA Academy 2014

Brian Merrill

“The TBA Academy is just what any new music teacher needs before starting a career in music.”

Michael Cortes, Assistant Band Director,
Rhodes Middle School, San Antonio ISD

Congratulations to all who participated in the 2014 Academy for New Band, Choir, and Orchestra Directors. The 170 attendees put in eight hours of intensive training covering important aspects of becoming a professional music educator. The Academy focused on training that can be used immediately to “connect the dots” between university course work and the expectations on the job. Topics included classroom management, discipline and motivation, legal issues facing music teachers, proper handling of money, communication with parents and administrators, booster clubs, building a culture of success, and the role of UIL, TMEA, and TEA.

Special thanks to an outstanding Academy faculty: Brad Kent, Robert Floyd, Tom Waggoner, Jennifer Dillard, Kari Gilbertson, Fabian Saldana, Matthew Perez, Katie Richardson, Holly Wardell, Rick Ghinelli, James Miculka, Pat Paris, Jim Van Zandt, and Tim Lautzenheiser. Additional thanks to Richard Herrera, Billy Talley, Pat Leaverton,

Kenneth Griffin, Sharon Lutz, and Mike Brashear for their support and efforts in making this year such a huge success.

The TBA Academy for New Band, Choir, and Orchestra Directors will be back in 2015. Everyone involved in the hiring of new teachers should encourage attendance to the Academy. Young directors who have been through this training are better prepared to assume the responsibilities of a professional educator.

“This academy was influential and inspirational. No matter whether you teach band, choir or orchestra, you will leave the academy as a better music educator.”

Brittany Elliff, Assistant Choir Director,
Spillane Middle School, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD



TBA Academy attendees network during lunch in the Lonesome Dove Room

“The TBA Academy was as inspiring day of clinics with some amazing teachers! Every young teacher should attend the Academy.”

Josh Howe, Assistant Band Director, Spence Talented and Gifted Academy, Dallas ISD.

“Even as a second year teacher, I learned a fantastic amount from the TBA Academy. I’m excited to go into year two with even more tools in my teacher toolbox.”

Marie Parisot, Assistant Choir Director, Arnold Middle School, Cypress-Fairbanks ISD.