

TBA Academy 2018

Brian Merrill

All day Thursday at this past summer's convention, as directors listened to recordings, attended clinics and concerts, and got reacquainted with colleagues from around the state, over 150 young teachers and directors new to Texas took part in the eighth year of the TBA Academy for New Band, Choir, and Orchestra Directors. The Academy is an intensive, daylong session that connects the dots between university training and the expectations on the job. Topics included classroom management, discipline and motivation, legal issues facing music teachers, communicating with administration, the role of TMEA, UIL and TEA, professional growth, proper money management, professionalism, and taking care of your personal finances. Special thanks to the Academy's "All-Star" faculty: Brad Kent, Robert Floyd, Rob Myers, Steve White, Jeremy Strickland, Robert Herrings, Rick Ghinelli, Carol Simpson, Amanda Drinkwater, and Tim Lautzenheiser. Additional thanks to Chico Portillo, Pam Elrod Huffman, Christina Bires, Mike Bartley, Amanda Vereen, Mike Brashear, Sharon Lutz, and Academy Coordinator Brian Merrill.

The TBA Academy will be back again for 2019! Everyone involved in the hiring of new teachers should encourage attendance to the Academy. Young directors that have been through this training are better prepared to assume the professional responsibilities of a music educator.

Some of this year's attendees had this to say:

"The TBA Academy is an invaluable resource for all young teachers. The comprehensiveness of the clinics has helped me to feel more confident than ever about all of the facets of not just teaching band, but in leading a professional life as a young adult. This academy is a must-attend!"

—Alex Hedden

"Without the mentorship and knowledge of the TBA Academy, I would not have turned out to be as strong of a teacher as I am today. Not only did I feel more confident for my first year of teaching, but I learned how to truly inspire my students to reach for the stars."

—Samantha Muller

"I attended the 2018 TBA Academy as I was about to go into my second year of teaching. It offered information on a variety of topics... some of which I didn't even know I needed! Ultimately, the experience was wonderful with highly qualified speakers and relevant information. I would recommend it to anyone!"

—Emelia Johnston

"The financial presentation was very helpful! Afterward, I felt less overwhelmed about money and more certain that I can manage it as a new teacher!"

—Kayla Crowley