

# We Want to *FORGET*, but Must *REMEMBER*

## What We Should Keep From the Times We're In

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"Nothing is different, everything is the same." I can still hear Evan VanDoren's voice echo in my memory of my first year at Cedar Park High School as he masterfully taught students to rely on their training before performances of particular significance.

On September 1, 2020:

*"Everything is different, nothing is the same."*

Our world has been flipped upside down and we've had to refocus, redefine, reimagine, and recreate entirely new ways of bringing music into our students' lives.

We hope to never make most of the adjustments we've made to meet the times ever again. But I'd like to argue that some of the changes we've made should be here to stay.

### **1. WORK-LIFE BALANCE**

We've found ourselves at home far more than ever before. We've reconnected with ourselves and the people who matter most. As we transition into normalcy it will be important for us to remember the value of those connections and to keep them at the center of our lives.

Hopefully these times have caused us to feel more uncomfortable when we find ourselves at work at 9:00 PM and feel more at home when we find ourselves... at home.

*"You cannot pour from an empty cup."*

### **2. CULTURE and RELATIONSHIP**

Countless band programs across Texas (and the United States) have aggressively focused on the culture of their organizations and the health of the relationships that hold them together during these times.

The team-building activities we used to cringe at are now the very activities that are holding our band families together. We've been reminded that our bands are simply a collection of humans bound by relationships.



*"Family is not an important thing. It's everything."*

### **3. MUSIC**

When our ability to refine the minutiae of music performance through in-person instruction was taken from us, we shifted our focus to the very essence of what we teach. **Music.**

Texas band directors have created countless units of study centering on music appreciation, composition, theory, history, and ear training. We've expanded our students' understanding of music and how it relates to the world around us in ways we would have never taken the time to do so otherwise.

*"Music can change the world."*

The three ideas above are merely a fraction of the silver linings that surround the storm cloud of 2020. As we forge ahead, don't forget to look back and remember the things you've done to make things better for your students.

We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio come July. What a wonderful day *that* will be.