



THE BAND DIRECTOR: ONE PERSON MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser

Having always been a fan of quotes, I find myself reading them time-and-time again. Each review of the message embraces more understanding and relevance. Read: The process creates BENEFITS to advance our own contributions as band directors, teachers, mentors, guides for our students to tap into their individual unlimited potential.

Daisaku Ikeda offers this powerful bit of wisdom spotlighting the immeasurable value of all teachers. With that said, it seems tailored for those of us who are a member of the band community.

Knowledge alone cannot give rise to value. It is only when knowledge is guided by wisdom that value is created. The font of wisdom is found in the following elements:

- **An overarching sense of purpose,**
- **A powerful sense of responsibility and finally,**
- **The compassionate desire to contribute to the welfare of humankind.**
- **The essence of education is this process whereby one person's character inspires another. Once students feel their teachers are genuinely concerned for their individual welfare, they will begin to trust them and open up to them.**

It appears Mr. Ikeda shared an enlightened perspective of what a MASTER TEACHER truly is. His powerful insight spotlights the priceless importance of the person-on-the-podium; YOU!

Arguably, the posture of the band director makes him/her a key aspect of the curriculum, focusing not only on WHAT we teach, but (as much as) THE WAY we teach WHAT we teach. While the math teacher will see the students for one semester (perhaps twice within the middle/high school setting), we see our band students every semester of every year; often, every day of the week. (...and that doesn't include the countless hours they spend in the band hall, because - for many, it is their home-away-from-home.). Thus, the bridge-of-learning widens to include both musical knowledge *and* the development of life-habits. The establishment of a "trust relationship" with our students IS *the* critical cornerstone to the positive

impact we have on the hearts-n-minds of those who choose to be in the band.

Band is different; thus band directors are different. We become surrogate family members, confidants, role models, and we are often the reason our band students choose to follow in our footsteps. The love of music combined with a caring-sharing band director is a powerful combination. Might I suggest many of you reading this article are doing so BECAUSE OF A BAND DIRECTOR/TEACHER/MENTOR who has been a major influence in your life. After all, wasn't it "that special teacher" who availed you to the endless treasury of music and the wonderful, one-of-a-kind band nation?

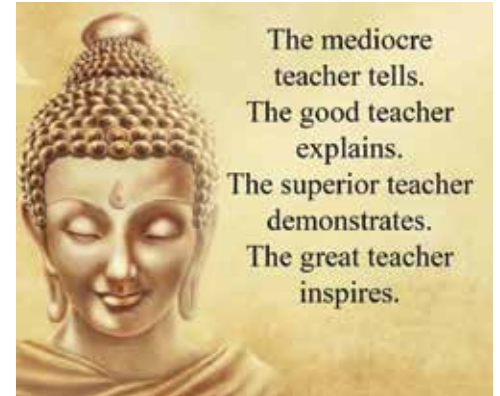
To look a bit closer at our poetic quote:

The essence of education is this process whereby one person's character inspires another.

YOU (we) are that ONE PERSON. The one who INSPIRES, who connects the students to the value of music learning and music making with INSPIRATION.

...whereby one person's character inspires another.

This dramatically amplifies the importance of WHO WE ARE. In simpler terms: THE BAND REFLECTS THE BAND DIRECTOR; not just the musical transfer-of-information, but the ROLE MODELING our students witness each and every day.



After a half-century-plus of engaging with outstanding band directors throughout the world, it is ever-apparent: The band mirrors the director; not only musically, but in terms of behavior, discipline, sensitivity, and all the character attributes that make-up our personalities. ROLE MODELING is still (and probably always will be) the most efficient and effective form of leadership.

Let's "Strike Up the Band" with Arthur Ward's quote that harmonizes with that of Ikeda, reminding us of our one-of-a-kind posture in the world of education; the teacher that makes the difference.

TIM LAUTZENHEISER began his teaching career at Northern Michigan University. He then moved to the University of Missouri and from there to New Mexico State University. During that time Tim developed highly acclaimed groups in both instrumental and vocal music. Following his tenure in the college band directing world, 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 teacher in-service workshops, student leadership seminars, and convention speaking engagements focusing on the area of effective leadership training. Tim presently serves as Senior Vice President of Education/Chief Education Officer for Conn-Selmer, Inc.