

## **How To Be A Successful Assistant Band Director**

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### **I. Characteristics Of A Successful Assistant**

#### **A. Compatible to head director in area of treatment of students**

1. Establish a positive relationship with all students in program
2. Make every student feels important
3. “Bad guy” or “good guy”

#### **B. Compatible to head director in area of teaching style and concepts**

1. Ask questions, observe
2. Learn warm up exercises and ensemble basics and the concepts behind them
3. Learn to teach all instruments
4. Contribute in rehearsals, be an extra set of ears or eyes

#### **C. Supportive of direction of program**

1. Support decisions even if you disagree, you must be a team player
2. Understand which decisions you can make versus decisions the head director should make
3. Be willing to serve as “devils advocate” so that all sides of an issue are discussed
4. Reality checks. “Things are never as bad as they seem nor as good as they seem”

#### **D. Be able to handle all logistics. Take administrative pressure off head director**

1. Buses, inventory, trip planning, database management, etc.
2. Absorb as much information as you can about how to do everything
3. Ask questions, view old computer files

4. Anticipate tasks, “see around the curve”
5. Become the ‘go-to’ person for parents and booster club, mailing labels, etc.

## **II. Pick Your Head Director Carefully**

- A. Do your home work about the program
- B. Compatibility of personalities and teaching styles is important
- C. Ask questions about concepts of sound and teaching, make sure you buy into what is being done
- C. Try not to get into a situation you know won't work