



Developing and Maintaining a Successful Program in the Rural Setting

CLINICIANS:

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**HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

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“Big Picture” Items

Staffing

- Staffing for success
 - Role of Head Director
 - Role of Assistant Directors
 - Team Teaching – what does this mean?
- Philosophical alignment
 - How you teach and what you teach – is it the same from the 6th grade through high school?
 - What are the expectations for each grade level and performing group?
 - Do the students and the ensembles progress throughout the program?
- Colleague relationships
- Leadership roles for students
 - How much of your band is run through student leaders?
 - Squad/Section Leader, Librarians, Uniform Chairman, Loading Crew, Water Crew, President, Vice President, Secretary, Social Committee, etc

School Relationships

- Superintendent, Principal, Assistant Principal
- Teachers, Counselors, Support Staff
- Parents
 - Maintaining Communication
 - Webpage, emails, calendars, text system
 - Booster Club
 - Purpose of your Booster Club
 - Responsibilities of Booster Club

Community Relations

- Be ready to sell your program and the benefits for the students, school and community
- Articles promoting your organization, upcoming events and accomplishments
 - Newspaper, radio, posters, etc.
- Special concerts – (ex. – Veterans Day)
- Communication “staywithitness”

“Nuts and Bolts” Items

Development of Band Sound and Technique

- Individual
 - Air Support
 - Development physically to produce proper air support
 - Training of ear to hear and understand proper tone, blend and balance
- Technique Development
 - Must start in the 6th grade and continue throughout high school
 - Technique sheets
 - Scales, Technique Books and Studies, Lip Slurs, etc.
 - General technique sheets
 - Specific technique sheets
 - Technique sheets based on present music or music for the future
 - How these sheets are used in rehearsals
- Individual and Band Tuning
- All-State Participation
- Solo and Ensemble

“Atmosphere” of the Band Program

- What life skills and character traits are you teaching your students?
 - Leadership, work ethic, doing what is right, discipline, etc.
- Rehearsal atmosphere
- Atmosphere of band hall when not in rehearsal
- What else is going on in a student’s life.
- Discipline - how is this handled
- Head Director – visibility and interaction with staff and students at all levels

Recruitment of Beginners

- Be visible as much as possible throughout the year to your future beginner class.
- Concerts, seasonal ensemble performances, recruitment performances
- Try and find a time to allow each student to try out an instrument (never know what interest you may create)
- Keep your beginning instrumentation balanced
- Work out with a music company to have a display ready and for instrument rental.

Don’t Do It Alone

- Clinicians

- Seek Advice
- Mentors
- Always continue to learn
- Be Patient – it takes time to build a program

Questions