



Developing a Championship Band Program

CLINICIANS:

Mike Sheffield and Mike Glaze

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Texas Bandmasters Association 2013 Convention/Clinic



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

“Developing a Championship Band Program”
aka, “I’m out of ideas. Help!”

Mike Sheffield, presenter

Texas Bandmasters Association

July 23, 2013

❖ Where I’m coming from

- Canyon H.S. – 4A – 1180 students in 9th-12th grades
- H.S. band enrollment – 150 (13% of student population)
- 2 HS directors, 1 junior high (7th and 8th) and 1 intermediate (6th)
- All 4 directors teach all classes at all campuses
- Population of Canyon – 15,000
- Nearest “big” city – Amarillo, 20 miles north
- High to very low income
- Education level quite diversified (University professors, doctors, farmers, ranchers, etc.)
- Private lessons – usually 30%, taught by college students mostly
- Great administrators, great tradition, supportive parents

❖ Taking it to the next level (choose at least one and put it to work!)

- Choosing music (not too hard, not too easy)
- One-on-one music passoffs – Nothing will get past you
- Sectionals – At least upper voices, middle voices, low voices, and percussion
- Record, record, record – digital recorders are very inexpensive
- Training student leaders – In advance. Give them expectations and parameters.
- Trusting staff members – If you have them, let them help you.
- “Spend your money on people.” – Daniel Todd, Crane HS
 - ◆ Lessons
 - ◆ Clinics
- Try to sightread everyday (especially in 2nd and 3rd year, junior high band)
- If it’s difficult, work on it everyday
- Value of a March-A-Thon, especially in Smallville
- The less time you have with your group, the more prepared you must be!

Final thought – Never underestimate your ability to do your job.

Recommended reading: “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People,” -Covey

Apps for a non-tech-savvy band director

Tonal Energy – tuner and visual frequency visualizer -

forScore – views scores and drill in a windproof setting – Good for iPad

Dropbox – it's like a flashdrive you don't have to carry around

Evernote – Keeps track of medical forms and info. Good for marching band.

Tempo metronome – Dr. Beat for your iPad

Things I didn't learn in college

- After posting results for anything, run for your car, turn off your phone, and deal with the aftermath the next day
- There is always at least one crazy parent (insert your definition of crazy here)
- When calling or texting, students assume you have psychic powers and you know who they are
- Bus seats never get softer
- The following things will always suck: paperwork, solo/ensemble/fundraising, and May
- If you live where you work, store visits are measured in hours
- Video games make bad days better
- Secretaries and custodians can and will save your butt. Over and over.
- Marching 10 miles never gets easier
- Kids want to help. Let them.
- Kids aren't waiting for you to grace them with your knowledge. But they will talk to you if you show an interest in them.
- People will hate you for the same reason others will love you
- Sometimes a hug goes a long way.
- All kids are hiding some sort of need or pain.
- You won't reach all kids. Every kid won't sing your praises. Don't let it bother you.
- Some kids will worship you. Don't let it go to your head.
- You will have to ask for help to get good at this job

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