



# **Developing and Maintaining a Rural Class C Middle School Band**

**CLINICIAN:  
Gina Muela**

## **Texas Bandmasters Association 2014 Convention/Clinic**



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# Developing and Maintaining a Rural Class C Middle School Band

Gina Muela, Littlefield Junior High

## Setting Beginner Classes

- ❖ Start testing end of 5<sup>th</sup> grade year
- ❖ Tested during their elementary music / PE class
- ❖ Beginners are “nudged” into playing instruments to build up sections that were small in numbers or weaker in abilities for the previous years’ class(es)

## Beginning Band

- ❖ Classes are split into woodwind / percussion and all brass
- ❖ Further broken down into flutes, clarinets & low reeds, and percussion; cornets, horns, and low brass
- ❖ Class settings include band hall, auditorium stage, and hallway

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bands

- ❖ Maroon Band (Non-Varsity)
- ❖ Maroon Honors Band (Varsity)

## Performance Opportunities

- ❖ Pep Rallies (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands)
- ❖ Solo Contest (required of all band students)
- ❖ Christmas & Spring Concert
- ❖ Music Festivals & UIL Contest

## Objectives

- ❖ For Maroon and Maroon Honors Band
- ❖ Accountability and responsibility
- ❖ Focus on fundamentals; scales, rhythm reading, tone production, etc
- ❖ Does not replace daily grades and other tests

## Sectionals

- ❖ Occur during the school day only; tutorials & lunch period
- ❖ Cover scales, objectives not covered in class, All-Region music, solos, contest music
- ❖ Reinforce listening skills, tuning, tone production

## Staff Commitment

- ❖ At high school and junior high, always a director on the podium, two assistants available for every band rehearsal.
- ❖ Each band has its own director; other directors available for pull-outs, playing off objectives, tests, in-class sectionals, etc
- ❖ All directors are involved in teaching beginners