



Building Success in the Small School Band

CLINICIANS:

Jim Cude, Jim Rhodes, Robert Vetter

SPONSOR:

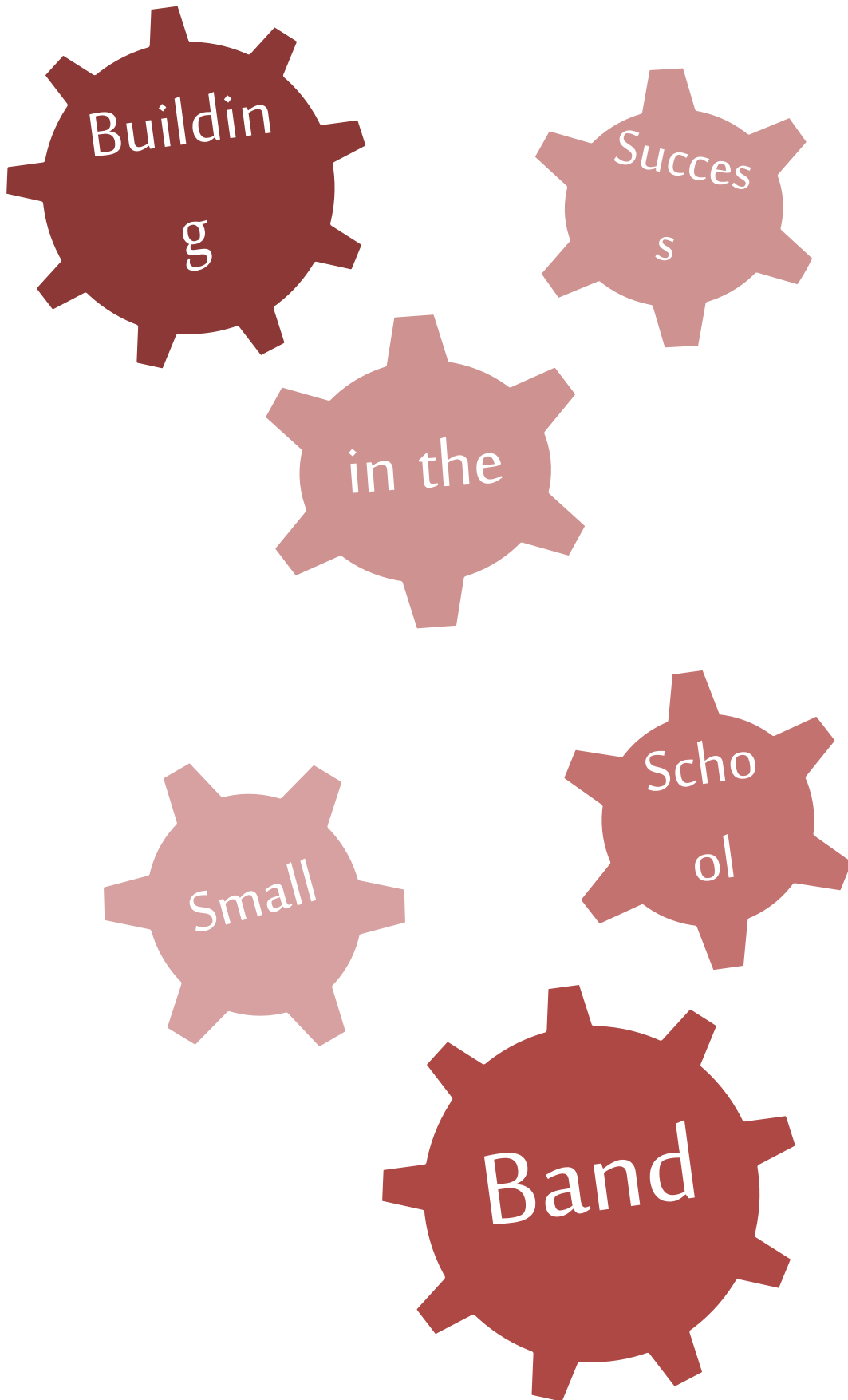
ATSSB

Texas Bandmasters Association 2015 Convention/Clinic

JULY 23-26, 2015

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

TEXAS BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION
JULY 23, 2015 1:00 P.M. CC 214AB
CLINICIANS: JIM CUDE, JIM RHODES AND BOB VETTER



It is good to have an end to
journey toward; it is the
journey that matters in the end

Communicate

1. Coaches & Teachers-
Students should
NOT have
to make choices
1. Parents
 - a. Charms
 - b. Remind 101
2. Administration

Invest

1. Be invested in the
school
 - a. Change doesn't
occur in 1-2
years
2. Be invested in the
community
 - a. Churches
 - b. Committees

Jim Cude, Whitesboro HS

Change Happens Slowly

1. Pick your battles
2. Change the things
you cannot live with
3. Adapt your teaching
style

Attitude

1. Positivity
2. Build them up
3. Create a family
atmosphere

Resources

1. Use the resources
available
 - Student
leadership
 - Charms
 - Smart Music
 - Colleges &
Universities
 - Other Colleagues

Jim Rhodes, Forsan High School

FIRST

1. You must sell your program to the kids and they must buy into it at some point.
2. Make good decisions about your program and be consistent throughout the year.
3. The band needs successes during this change period. They need to see positive results from the system you are introducing.
4. Talk to your band and tell them why you are doing certain things. Reason with them over what is right and wrong.
5. Create a warm and homey atmosphere in the band hall. Use signs, banners, pictures, and the goals that you want to achieve.

NEXT

1. Be super organized. Work smarter not harder.
2. Keep the band hall neat and orderly. It sets a standard for the rehearsal environment.
3. Develop a rehearsal atmosphere that is productive and does not waste time.
4. Be consistent on how you start class each day. (Roll check, announcements, warm-up etc.)
5. Select quality music and perform good arrangements when possible.

FINALLY

1. Bring in good people to work with your groups.
2. Seek advice from people you respect.
3. Demand excellence from your students and expect it.
4. Believe in what you are doing. There will be many trying times.
5. Marching season is the best time to sell your program. You are most visible during this time of the year.

ADVICE

1. Be respectful of the person you followed, whether they were good or bad.
2. Be aware of your student's time, interests, and other activities.
3. Be part of other school functions when at all possible.
4. Establish good public relations with administration, faculty, parents, and community members. Do not neglect secretaries, counselors, custodians, and transportation departments. They can be some of your biggest supporters!
5. Take time to write thank you notes. You will be rewarded a hundred-fold.
6. One of the things we try most at Forsan is to make it easy for kids to be in Band.

PERSONAL THOUGHTS

1. Get used to sharing students. Everybody wants the good kids.
2. Get used to students missing class for many activities. Especially in the spring.
3. Get used to students quitting band. This is the hardest one to understand. It doesn't matter how successful the program has been or how well you have treated students, they still walk away.
4. Get used to the "and or other duties assigned". Expect to Sponsor, teach or have an extra duty requested of you. This could be a positive thing if you have the right attitude.
5. Get used to Fund Raising.
6. Be sure to have someone to call, e-mail, or visit periodically. Sharing good or bad experiences can be great therapy!
7. Have a stress toy on your desk. I bought an "Easy" button from Staples. It has made me smile many times.
8. Be patient, it takes time. Give your beginners time to come through the program. Graduation can play a big part in re-shaping your band.
9. Don't think you know everything because you have a College degree. It only gives you a license to learn.
10. As my good friend, Dan Gibbs, always reminds me. Sometimes you have to "Stop and Smell the Roses." Enjoy what you have; it's not always as bad as you think.

Bob Vetter, Robinson High School

Our Program

We are like a small school but also a big school. We face many of the same issues everyone else does in the number of kids; there is a nucleus of “good” kids & everyone wants them. We are fortunate to have an incredible relationship w/Baylor University. We have student teachers that are very helpful and an incredible relationship with Dr. Eric Wilson.

Get Help

1. Use any source you can for help: college, another school that is close, friends, etc
2. Talk to as many “road worthy” directors as possible. Pick their brain & find out what does & does not work.
3. Never quit learning! Go to as many clinics at TBA & TMEA as possible. When someone is working your band, pay attention! (GET OFF THE PHONE! & PAY ATTENTION!)
4. Some like to use many different clinicians; some like to use the same person. Regardless, get someone in to work or listen to your band. If budget is a problem, make recordings of your group and let someone listen to them. (When someone works your group: be professional & compensate them immediately!)

The Basics

1. When you carry on a conversation w/anyone; student, teacher, parent, etc.: be there & pay attention. (GET OFF THE PHONE! & PAY ATTENTION!)
2. Show the kids you care about them!
3. Show the students that you are an adult! (Be a friend but not a buddy!)
4. Plan on using a lot of personal time! To be successful, there has to be a lot of preparation. Music copied, rooms set, etc.,
5. Keep everyone “in the loop.” From staff, to parents, to administration. Principals and Superintendents do not like surprises!
6. When you have a problem or concern, do not wait for the parent to call you; make that call! (Most times it is better they hear your side of the story before they hear the kid's.)
7. Student Leadership should be a year round audition. Let the kids know that from the start. We want to see what kind of work ethic they have; are they punctual; do they really care about the program. Do they really care about the other students? Use student leaders as much as possible: music copy and pass out; uniforms; instruments; setting chairs & stands, etc.

Technology

1. Use technology! Music playoffs: Charms, Smart Music, etc. Tonal Energy & other tuner/met apps. Drill Book Next – Dot Book Apps
2. When you use technology: be prepared for anything and everything. Always have a “Plan B.”
3. Have calendar set & on the District Wide Calendar as early as possible.

The Important Stuff!

1. Music selection: play GOOD music that fits your group. Work for your strengths! If you need to re-write something to cover what you do not have, do it!
2. We go to contest early. We try to play something at UIL and then change for the State Wind Ensemble. Sometimes we may add another movement or do something instead of a march. Our kids love the contemporary composers; Hazo, Mackey, etc. We try to program those folks and then throw in some Holst or one of the classics.
3. Let the kids know that just like in English, there are standards that we must honor in music too. Try to play some of this music. If it is not possible for contest, do it at a festival or concert. The point is: the kids need to know about the “Band Classics” too!

Have Fun!

Enjoy what you do! Band Directing is the greatest profession there is!