



**Texas Bandmasters Association  
Convention/Clinic July 26-28, 2018**

**The Complete Marching Season  
Part 3: The Fall Semester: ALL  
Things Matter**

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### Part 3 – FALL SEMESTER

- Academics/Eligibility
  - Prioritize grades from the very beginning
    - Begin talking about grades during summer band
    - Remind students of academic responsibilities and their importance
  - Know the process for checking grades on your campus
  - Assigned staff member(s) to ensure a weekly check occurs
    - Elevates student awareness and again shows you prioritize their academic success
  - *Failure to do homework is typically the reason students do not pass their classes*
  - Be cognizant of outside responsibilities brought on by the students' participation in band
    - Allow students time to complete homework during band class if they have been out late due to band responsibilities
    - This shows both parents and faculty that you hold academics as high in value as your band class
      - District Band Nights
      - Thursday Night Games
      - Contests during the week
      - Homecoming activities
- Systems/Processes/Procedures
  - Clear communication is imperative to establishing trust and positive relationships
  - Must be explained and then continually assessed to ensure the students are doing what is being asked.
  - Remember that the smallest detail matters
    - Classroom procedures
    - Game/Contest procedures
      - Halftime procedures (flip folders, etc.)
    - Field entry/exit for games and contests
    - How to wear your uniform
- Pacing the season (show instruction)
  - Macro vs. Micro
  - What's Important Early, Mid, Late
    - Being able to prioritize appropriately will ensure success in the long run
- Pacing the season (culture)
  - In addition to teaching our students the show it is also our jobs to look out for and monitor their physical and emotional health throughout the season
    - "other duties"
  - Student leadership and how they can help
  - As the season progresses both teachers and students will get tired...we must recognize this fatigue in ourselves, our staff and our students and address it accordingly
    - With fatigue comes elevated emotions
    - It is our ability to navigate this time of the season that will ensure the health of the culture in the organization and continued growth of the program for years to come
      - Students, parents, and administration will watch (sometimes subconsciously) how you manage this time of year
- All-State audition process
  - Region Sectionals
  - Individual Region Listening(s)
  - Opportunities for individual practice during band class
    - BLASEPHEMY, I know but I am absolutely serious!
- Drumline Contest
  - Yes or No
    - No correct answer here
  - Early, Late or both
- Music Pass-Off

- During Summer Band and throughout the first Six/Nine Week period
- Live Listening
  - Most value as specific individual feedback can be given
- SmartMusic
- Should student leaders complete these listenings?
- Contests
  - Performance, Show Warmups
  - Show day schedules
  - Remember to teach the parents when to cheer
- Faculty Cohesiveness
  - Within the staff and across the entire high school faculty
  - Participate in activities outside of the band class
    - Pep Rallies, Homecoming, Faculty/Student tournaments, etc
  - Observations of your band kids in their academic classes
  - Emails of support to academic faculty
  - Front Office Visits
    - SO VERY IMPORTANT
- Dance Team Practice
  - #1 MOST IMPORTANT – Perform your dance team music at the same level as any other music you have.
    - Remember this is their most important performance of the week.
    - This shows that you value the student dancers and respect the dance faculty
    - You will win over so many faculty members by simply learning the music and performing it with the highest levels of excellence.
    - Be flexible in terms of tempos, etc.