



**Texas Bandmasters Association
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**Student Teaching IS Your First Job:
Building Your Professional Reputation
While Still in College**

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Student Teaching IS Your First Job

Presented by Frank Troyka
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BUILDING A REPUTATION

- Create the “perfect picture.” What makes one an exceptional student teacher?
 - An intense desire to learn
 - A willingness to do what others may not want to do: Embrace the mundane as well as the spotlight.
 - Loyalty and humility
 - A role model for kids; someone who is not controversial.
 - A learner.
 - A willingness to arrive early and stay late.
 - Preparation.
- Your identity away from the classroom
- Find out what’s on your evaluation

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS: THE COMPANY YOU KEEP

- With your cooperating teacher
 - Ask questions, even when you think you know the answers.
 - Be accessible and available.
 - Be humble.
 - Seek responsibility; ask how you can help.
 - Be an intentional learner.
 - Involve him/her in every aspect of your teaching assignment.
 - Your actions and decisions must be aligned with his/her goals and policies.
- With the students (and their parents when the opportunity presents itself)
 - Support the directors overtly.
 - Maintain a professional distance (you will be tested).
 - Show your enthusiasm for the profession.
- With the other directors
 - Seek their input on what it takes to be a good assistant.
- With the administration
 - Learn names and areas of responsibility.
 - Initiate periodic contact.
- With faculty in other subject areas
 - Meet at least one other teacher and get to know what school is like outside the fine arts department.

GETTING THE MOST OF THE EXPERIENCE

- Review your notes from your methods classes. This is when you apply the information you were given.
- Assume there’s more than what you see when you observe your cooperating teacher.

over...

GETTING THE MOST OF THE EXPERIENCE, cont.

- Document your lessons. Write down what worked and what didn't.
- Keep a journal. Make a list of questions and ask them!
- Document everything you like.
- Go over your lesson plan with your cooperating teacher before you teach; review it afterward.
- Record your lessons (audio/video). This is the shortest path from where you are to where you want to be.
- Don't be afraid to reveal to your cooperating teacher what you don't know. Ask!
- "How am I doing?" "What can I do to be more effective?" "Tell me what needs to be done."

RANDOM THOUGHTS

- Offer thanks freely. Everyone wants to feel like they're a part of your success.
- Never stop learning. The best teachers you encounter will consider themselves lifelong learners.
- There is no teaching until there is learning.
- Treat email as professional correspondence. Begin with a salutation. Capitalize. Punctuate. Use complete sentences. Learn the differences among "there," "their," and "they're" (and when to use "among" rather than "between").
- Never put anything confidential in an email. Treat all electronic correspondence as if it were a matter of public record (because it is).
- Be proactive when working with your cooperating teacher. If you think you screwed up, go to him/her first!
- Be a mentor to your students, but not a buddy. They must not see you as a peer. You're the teacher now, and your students must see you that way.
- Be accessible to the directors outside the school day.
- You may have doubts from time to time. That's natural. Reconnect with those who inspired you to become a teacher in the first place.
- Unfortunately, there's no such thing as a "privacy setting" on the Internet. Whatever you post is YOU. "We never do anything unlike ourselves."
- No bashing. Ours is a close profession. There's nothing to be gained by alienating anyone or taking sides.

Acknowledgments

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