



**Texas Bandmasters Association
Convention/Clinic July 25-27, 2019**

**Success for All: Making Band Work
for Every Student!**

**CLINICIAN:
Bryn Roberts**

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

SUCCESS FOR ALL

Bryn Roberts, Assistant Band Director

Making Band Work for Every Student!

Reedy High School; Frisco ISD; Frisco, TX

We can make our bands better by making our **weak links stronger**. This improves the quality of our bands but is also what's best for these sometimes overlooked students. It's a win-win situation!

Our goal: Band is a positive experience for every student that walks through our doors.

Some say band "just isn't for everybody." But....do we believe that music education is **vital** for every student? Do we believe that the students who come through our program become **better people** because of that experience?



Sometimes we are too quick to **give up** on students or **write them off**.

Sometimes in our quest for excellence and the daily busyness and stress of our jobs, we inadvertently neglect our weaker students, leaving them to feel **discouraged, disengaged, or unimportant**.

How do we make band a positive experience for our weaker links? And how do we make our weak links stronger?

Accountability

By insisting that students fully engage in band, we show them that we believe in them and give them the opportunity to develop self-confidence and experience the thrill of accomplishment.

- ◆ When students are more invested in band, they reap greater rewards and have a more positive experience. We must hold our students accountable for FULLY participating in band.
- ◆ Before we put a policy or procedure in place in our program, we must make sure that we actually have a system in place to hold the students accountable for following through and meeting our expectations.
- ◆ Effective accountability systems must be:
 - ⇒ Accurate
 - ⇒ Immediate
 - ⇒ Individual
 - ⇒ Connected with clean, meaningful consequences
- ◆ We must hold our students accountable for:
 - ⇒ Showing up and showing up on time
 - ⇒ Coming to rehearsal prepared with all materials
 - ⇒ Making consistent musical progress (demonstrated through pass-offs, playing tests, recordings, objective sheets, etc.)

Nurture

Our weaker students often need more care, encouragement, and individual help from us to reach the high expectations we have for them.

- ◆ Intellectually, we must nurture our students through differentiation and scaffolding. Not all students will achieve the same things at the same time, but we can help every student experience the thrill of accomplishment.
 - ⇒ Differentiation=tailoring our instruction to fit the individual needs of our students
 - ⇒ Scaffolding=providing the support necessary to help our students get to a higher level
 - ⇒ We can provide differentiation and scaffolding as we hold them accountable through pass-offs, playing tests, recordings, etc.
 - ⇒ We also need to nurture our students in the responsibility aspects of band, such as time management and following directions.
- ◆ Emotionally, we must nurture our students by building relationships with them.
 - ⇒ We can be proactive and start building relationships with our weaker students from the very beginning of the year.
 - ⇒ How we treat our weaker students sets an example for how the other students who are watching you will treat them.
 - ⇒ Create a culture in which we treat our weaker students with dignity, patience, and kindness.
 - ⇒ Students can watch out for each other, taking some of the burden off us as directors.
 - ⇒ Show students through your words and actions that everyone in the band is important and can make a significant contribution to the band.



In every journey, someone must be out in front to set the course and the pace. And someone must be in the back to make sure no one gets left behind. The latter job may not be the most glamorous, but it is perhaps the most meaningful.

When we strive to make band a positive experience for every single student that comes through our doors, we make our bands stronger, and we touch the lives of those that need us most.

Contact Information:

Bryn Roberts
robertsra@friscoisd.org

