



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

**A Successful and Rewarding Career in
a School of "Few A's" in a Town With
No Walmart Why? How?**

CLINICIANS:

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

A Successful and Rewarding Career in a School with Few “A’s” In a Town With No Walmart

Moderator: Dr. Charles Trayler, retired

Presenters: Jim Rhodes, Forsan, and Matt Knight, Abernathy

- I. Introduction
- II. Students-how small school is beneficial
 - a. Small students need music education, too.
 - b. Students are in everything
 - c. More hands on
 - d. Continuity—k or 5th/6th through graduation
 - e. You need kids who are good for band/need kids who band is good for them
- III. Positives of the small school environment
 - a. Professional
 - i. Makes me a better band director. You are the go to—you do it all—repair, budget, teaching all instruments, etc.
 - ii. Schools pay dividends through housing, insurance, salary, stipend days, extra duty benefits, even Title I educational loan repayment
 - iii. Allows you to teach and develop your teaching styles through trial & error and success & failure.
 - iv. Allows you to know all of the people you work with
 - b. Personal
 - i. Small schools are a great place to raise a family
 - ii. You get to know second and third generations—longevity
 - iii. You get to really know the students you teach
 - iv. More opportunity to really influence those you teach
 - v. Majority of pressure is self-imposed
 - vi. Community will share your good times and support you in bad times
- IV. Negatives of the small school environment
 - a. Professional
 - i. You will have to share your students—ALL THE TIME Students are missing classes for everything, especially in the spring
 - ii. And other duties—you WILL be more than just the band director (financially beneficial, job security)
 1. Bus driver, UIL coach, class sponsor
 2. Little league coach, church musician, community volunteer
 - iii. You are ALWAYS on call (makes you a go to with your peers)
 - iv. Less financial resources and shared facilities (gives you a chance to get creative)
 - v. Answering to multiple campuses/principals (different outlooks, varying opinions, opportunities for a more global view)
 - vi. Have your CDL? (driving for other organizations can build good-will, support for your program with peers)
 - vii. You have to do more with less time (teaching to organize, maximize time)

- b. Personal
 - i. Everybody knows everything (authenticity)
 - ii. You are ALWAYS on call (really a chance to be helpful)
 - iii. Hard to be single in a small town
- V. Miscellaneous thoughts
 - a. Be respectful of the person you follow
 - b. Graduation can play a big part in re-shaping your band
 - c. College degree just gives you a “license to learn.”
 - d. No Pass/No Play—you need to be the expert on how the rules read and know the dates. <https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/tea-uil-side-by-side/academic-requirements>
 - e. Bring in help
 - i. Parents
 - ii. Peers
 - iii. Faculty/Staff
 - f. Communication is the key!
 - i. Stay in contact with your admin
 - ii. Keep the faculty/staff in the know about what is going on
 - iii. Find an outlet to get information out to the community
 - iv. Get your band calendar on the books and stick to it
 - v. You have to be the most positive person on campus—it draws people to you
 - vi. Vertical alignment—from the bottom of the music tree to your high school program
 - vii. All-region, solo and ensemble—best time to teach individually
 - viii. Be available for your students
 - 1. Workday doesn’t end at 3:30
 - 2. If you are present, students will stop by and visit
 - ix. Make it a family atmosphere

NOTES: _____
