



**Texas Bandmasters Association  
Virtual Convention July 20-22, 2020**

**The 1st 6 Weeks - Strategies For The  
High School Band**

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# **The 1st Six Weeks - Strategies For The High School Band**

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## **Current TEA & UIL Guidelines**

- Situation is very fluid, remain flexible
- District policies will vary across the state
  - Different scenarios and restrictions
  - Different models across the state
  - Planning with your campus administration is key
- What are the current ratios?
- UIL session will be held this Wednesday at 11AM

## **Creative scheduling**

- **Poll Question:** How many days per week will you see your band students in-person in a class?
- We will all have smaller class sizes. Questions to be asked and answered:
  - How large is the classroom space and how many students and teachers can safely occupy the space?
  - Do you have any flexibility on how to schedule these classes?
  - Which students to assign to each class?
- While not ideal, it may enable us to focus on individuals and small groups more successfully. Can you split your classes into subgroups such as:
  - Woodwind and Brass
  - Voices
  - Choirs such as High Brass/Low Brass
    - Brings focus to more individualized instruction
    - Brings focus to smaller ensembles with unique instrumentation
  - Composers are currently focusing on unique compositions for smaller ensembles or ensembles with flexible instrumentation
- In addition to state resources such as TBA, TMEA and UIL websites:
  - College Band Directors National Association (<https://www.cbdna.org/>)
  - Conn Selmer (<https://www.conn-selmer.com/>)
  - Music for All (<https://www.musicforall.org/>)
  - American Bandmasters Association (<http://www.americanbandmasters.org/>)
  - Seating charts for rehearsal rooms and concert stages
  - Photos of US service bands in rehearsal

- The Blended Model - Live & Virtual Band
  - Live “To-Do List” - Make time to:
    - Re-engage students in music classrooms
    - Recreate the band hall environment
    - Build relationships with your freshmen
    - Create music together - it’s been 5 months!
    - Prepare you students for virtual instruction
  - Virtual “To-Do List” - Make time to:
    - Zoom your live rehearsals & record them
    - Don’t overload your students with technology
    - There will be disappointment if/when schools go to 100% virtual learning
    - Drum Majors and Section Leaders will lead the community
  - Virtual learning for Band is NOT the wave of the future
    - Lack of Synergy
    - Ensemble skills will diminish/not develop
    - Promote the success and efforts of students and teachers live and virtual
    - While putting student and teacher safety first, we must continue to promote the need and importance of ensemble performance

## Curriculum Revision

- **Poll Question: What will your marching band look like this fall?**
- Marching Band
  - Importance of continuing marching fundamentals
  - Consider your community and your role in that community
  - Consider your seniors
  - Closure at the end of the season
- Using marching music to teach concepts - what a concept!
  - Now is a great time to evaluate your programs playing weaknesses and address them in your plan for fundamentals and literature
  - Pep Bands
  - Stand tunes are good material
- TMEA All-State audition process
  - TMEA will proceed with the All-State process (video)
  - This will provide some normalcy, perhaps bringing more focus to this material in class
  - Length and cuts may vary from student to student

- 1st 6 Weeks Curriculum Revisions MUST
  - NOT reinvent the band wheel
  - Be interesting and enjoyable for students
  - Help students feel good about what they are doing given the limitations they will face in 2020-2021
  - Provide some “football game” vibes
  - Help to keep your program an important component of what your school offers to students long term

## Remediation

- Lack of full UIL C&SR process and Spring performances will result in diminished development regardless of how much they’ve been practicing as individuals
- Opportunity to focus on a reset of fundamentals
- Reconnect with your returning students and become familiar with your incoming freshmen and their needs
  - Send out a student survey before you begin camp
    - Google Forms, Survey Monkey, etc.
  - Send out a parent survey before you begin camp
    - Ask for their feedback
    - We can’t address every concern
    - Seeing things through the eyes of a parent will help us plan and give us ideas
    - We will be able to make more informed decisions
  - Create YouTube videos to inform parents and students
    - Stay on topic and separate facts from feelings
    - Share on social media
  - Set up meetings to connect and reconnect with students & parents
    - Listen more
  - Convey a unified message to all
    - “We will do what is best for students and teachers, always, while following our district and campus safety guidelines”
  - Reconnect with the community
    - Keep them informed
    - More information is better
    - Know what they want and what they feel
    - Assure them we are doing all we can to remain safe
    - Create ways to remain a visible part of the community
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- Q&A - if time permits or email us:
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