



Texas Bandmasters Association Virtual Convention July 20-22, 2020

The Assistant: Help, Learn, Support

**CLINICIANS:
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The Assistant: Help, Learn, Support

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Build and Nurture Your Relationship with the Head Director

Effective Communication

- When speaking be honest and authentic
- Learn to listen
- Preferred methods and styles: email, text, one-on-one, phone call
- Right time and right place

Understand the Vision

- Keep an open mind
- Teaching philosophy
- Pedagogy
- Goal-setting

Build Trust

- Advocate for the head director publicly
- Believe in the head director privately
- Do your job

Be the Ultimate Team Player

Take on Tasks

- Find tasks that allow the head director to do what only they can do
- Ask questions to clarify how to complete tasks
- Ask for feedback after completing tasks
- Trust students and delegate tasks to them

Run Interference

- Smooth out rehearsals by preventing distraction and foreseeable obstacles
- Be a barrier for your head director when they need concentration time
- Listen to the needs and concerns of others, then summarize for your head director or handle yourself

Boost Morale

- Prep the rehearsal space to be clean and welcoming
- Interact with students to create a positive and focused vibe
- Model being engaged and enthusiastic during instruction

Become a Stakeholder for your Program's Future

Model the Varsity Groups

- Allows fluidity of students
- Allows fluidity of directors
- Similar structure – scaled workload and content

Continued Development as an Educator

- Use the head director as a resource
- Use resources outside of the head director
- Self-reflection

Set the Foundation for the Future

- Fill in knowledge gaps
- Awareness of student motivations
- Think “big picture”