



**Texas Bandmasters Association  
Convention/Clinic July 22-24, 2021**

**Quality Over Quantity-The  
Advantages of Teaching Band in Small  
Rural Schools**

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

## Quality Over Quantity The Advantages of Teaching Band in Small Rural Schools

- I. Warm-Up
  - a. Method Book – Find one that works for you and you are comfortable. Make sure it covers all the essentials.
  - b. Long Tones – Good for brass as well as woodwinds. Percussion
  - c. Lip Slurs - Woodwind technique on mini-scales.
  - d. Scales – One a week with exercises pertaining to the scale.
  - e. Chorale
- II. Planning –
  - a. What are your expectations for the year? Begin with the end in mind. What is your expectation for the end product at the end of the school year? What are the expectations of your student leaders? Take a good inventory of your best section, players and size of the band. Study the PML selections and listen to as many band compositions. Be realistic and do not go on what you wish can happen.
  - b. Working with or without an assistant. Do you split time with HS and MS? What are your responsibilities? Each level of the organization must buy into the vision for the organization.
  - c. Be flexible for situations outside your control, always have a plan B,C & D.
  - d. Get your band calendar into as many hands as possible as soon as possible. Band students, teachers, parents, coaches, etc....
  - e. Trip planning - Find a good traveling agent or organization.
  - f. Games - Bus request, yellow or charters?
  - g. Meals - Find restaurants that will accommodate your needs.
  - h. Hotels - For competitions. Call early as possible and get everything in writing!!
  - i. Rehearsals - Out of town rehearsal sites. Call other band directors to help provide a place to rehearse.
  - j. Itinerary - Be specific about all the whereabouts of your plans and share phone numbers with parents.
- III. Organization/Communication

- a. Have a wall calendar to plan out the whole school year. Write in dead lines in red. Give yourself a weeks' notice to help you prepare your paper work better. Ask graduate sales/music store for your school for this calendar.
  - b. My recommendation is this one: Large Dry Erase Wall Calendar - 38" x 58" - Undated Blank 2021 Reusable Yearly Calendar - Giant Whiteboard Year Poster - Laminated Office Jumbo 12 Month Calendar  
[Visit the Lushleaf Designs Store](#)
  - c. Rules and expectations
  - d. Classroom setup including plan for the day.
  - e. Assign strong leaders to take care of room cleanliness.
  - f. Weekly meeting with student leadership
  - g. Email parents
  - h. Email teachers about your students- do this well in advance of events.
  - i. Know the people who make things work. Such as Principal, secretary, custodians, transportation, athletic director, etc.
- IV. Instrumentation – Keep a good inventory of all your instruments (working and not working). Plan a day of the week for instruments to be picked up or taking to the shop.
- a. have a long term plan to replace instruments, uniforms, etc.
  - b. have a plan for balanced instrumentation on every level
- V. Resources
- a. Music stores
  - b. Colleges
  - c. College or former students (for summer band help!)
  - d. Colleagues
  - e. Successful teachers that are retired
  - f. Music conventions
  - g. Phi Beta Mu Mentoring Program
  - h. Association of Texas Small School Bands
- VI. Technology- utilize your students!
- a. Apps
    - a. Remind App
    - b. Band App
    - c. Tonal Energy
    - d. Sight-Reading Factory

- e. Music Theory
- b. Equipment
- c. Web page
- d. SmartMusic
- e. Flipgrid
- VII. Helpful Websites
  - a. SmartMusic
  - b. TMEA
  - c. TBA
  - d. ATSSB
  - e. NAMMB
  - f. Military band websites
  - g. NAFME
  - h. UIL
  - i. YouTube