



**Texas Bandmasters Association  
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**Perspectives from the 2020  
Marching Season**

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

# ***Perspectives from the 2020 Marching Season***

## **Presented by:**

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**Why are we here?** To share our experiences and lessons learned from the 2020 marching season. Each of us navigated face-to-face marching instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic differently, but supported one another every day through the journey. This support proved essential for the mental health and safety of not only the students but staff as well. We hope other directors will continue to break down barriers, ask for help, share resources, and nurture one another in the interest of improving longevity in our profession.

## **Part One - the experience**

*Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another. -Proverbs 27:17*

- Summer band, the fall, and the end game looked different for each campus
- Each director shared resources on student safety and ideas for maximizing efficiency
- Directors worked to communicate frequently as members of the same team rather than members of different programs
- We are competitors but we were friends first in 2020, this can improve going forward and is not always the case for each of us
- Going forward, creating a network across the state that allows for the immediate sharing of thoughts and resources to problem solve
- Text networks, group chats, zoom meetings can help share experiences

## **Part Two - love one another**

*Love one another with affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. -Romans 12:10*

- We are judgmental as a profession; it is the nature of what we do. Judging the quality of a performance, the musicality, the accuracy. How can we separate judging the performance from the person (or the program?)
- Woodlands, Claudia, and Vista rehearse at one another’s campuses and support each other during the most competitive times
- Retreat blocks at competition; improve the relations between programs during the most challenging times; often the kids are better than the adults
- Model for our students how we want them to be with others; our kids reflect our behaviors
- Create a support network before the crises happens to improve mental health
- Student leaders learn servant leadership to improve relationships
- Programs acknowledge major milestones i.e. another school getting into Midwest, another school having a great show, another school experience loss or something tragic
- Looking outside of our own program to support and lift another director or staff member who is struggling; this requires awareness and effort

### **Part Three - extending the olive branch to extend longevity**

*Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life. -Proverbs 16:31*

- If our goal is to extend the longevity of band directors, then band directors who have been teaching for a long time need to share how they have maintained that energy and drive
- Directors can improve morale through sharing not only positive moments, but also struggles and moments of weakness. This requires vulnerability and trust.
- Be cognizant of social media; allow others to “brag for you.” This requires we brag on one another and be genuine in celebrating the successes of our peers.
- Competition - we can compete and still be close.
- Be approachable and open. Allow other directors into your world. We tend to stay in our comfort zones as humans, and sometimes we don’t allow others in. Whether this is a defensive mechanism, a lack of awareness, or even a matter of time, continue to find ways to “extend the olive branch” to others in order to enrich our profession
- Lifting another is a powerful experience and will have trickle down effects long beyond the single moment.

### **Quotes we like**

*“If I have been able to see further than others, it is because I have stood on the shoulder of giants.” -Sir Isaac Newton*

*“At the end of the day people won't remember what you said or did, they will remember how you made them feel.” -Maya Angelou*

*“I get by with a little help with my friends.” -Paul McCartney and John Lennon*

