



**Texas Bandmasters Association  
Convention/Clinic July 21-23, 2022**

**A Conversation with the Midwest 2021  
Middle School Directors: The Non-  
Negotiables for a Successful Middle  
School Band Program**

**CLINICIANS:**

**Jennifer Bergeron, Joey Qualls, Kim  
Rosenberg, Darcy Vogt Williams**



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

**A Conversation with the Midwest 2021 Middle School Directors: The  
Non-Negotiables for a Successful Middle School Band Program  
Friday, July 22, 2022 1:00 pm-2:00 pm, CC217AB  
Jennifer Bergeron, Joey Qualls, Kim Rosenberg, Darcy Vogt Williams**

**Beginner Expectations**

- Hold them high & *reinforce daily*
  
- Approach beginner band as an instrumental class
  - Beginner book is only a tool
  - Tone Development Looks Like
    - Go slow
    - Tiny instruments
    - Taught in isolation as its own skill
  - Can they articulate problems and solutions
    - Daily discuss with common verbiage
    - Teach what problems LOOK like physically
    - Cannot solve problems at home if they do not understand the solution
  
- Prove Literacy
  - Multiple methods of “performing”
  - Independence

**Ensemble Expectations**

- Daily Drill Work
  - Breathing Exercises
  - Long Tones/Flow Studies
  - Ensemble skills- teach students how to listen within the ensemble
  - Teach students the WHY of each exercise
  - Less is More; Do Less, Better
  
- Sectionals
  - Instrument specific skills; this is where you continue to build the individual player
  - Purposeful continued development
  - Begin working any skills that may be needed in any upcoming music: range, double tonguing, WW technique, etc. Build the individual in the Fall to reap the rewards for the Spring
  
- Tone development looks like
  - Long Tones, Octave/Register Slurs, Buzzing/Singing
  
- Differentiation between ensembles

- All ensembles need to have similar daily drill for vertical alignment, but exercises will be adjusted per ensemble

### **Expectations for a Director**

- Continuing Education
  - Clinics-never stop learning
  - Lesson teachers-expertise for each instrument
  - Mentors-invaluable resource
  - Clinicians-benefit for directors as well as students
  - Student Leaders-great resource
  - Organization-imperative to use every minute of rehearsal/class
  - Director Expectations
  - Record a lot-for director and the students
- Lesson Plans every day
  - Creates efficiency
  - End in mind
  - Every class/year different
- Staff communication
  - Needs to be a common thread throughout the program and directors
  - Teaching each other's classes
  - Combined days
  - Mental Health

### **Engagement**

- Kids must want to hear your information
  - Give them a WHY that is performance related
  - Make small goals that are clear and achievable
  - Make your band hall home. Love them, teach them, entertain them, and give them boundaries
- Pacing
  - Make every minute count
  - Purposeful planning, including transitions
  - Differentiate within one exercise. Guide their thinking so everyone can stay engaged
- Read the room when to move on
  - Know when the thing you need most is more time for yourself to make a better plan
- Feedback
  - Be honest with students, give them direct and precise feedback, and find things to celebrate