



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

**Teaching the Middle School Non-Varsity
Bands: Building Better Bands from the
Bottom Up**

**CLINICIANS:
Megan Czerwieski, Chris Eaton,
Victoria Mays**



HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER - SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Teaching the Middle School Non-Varsity Bands: Building Better Bands from the Bottom Up

Texas Bandmasters Convention/Clinic 2022
Saturday, July 23, 2022 | 2:00pm | Room CC 214
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“Progress lies not in enhancing what is, but in advancing toward what will be.”
-Kahlil Gibran

Philosophy

- ♪ What's in a name...
- ♪ “Remember, they are in this band for a reason.” - be patient and helpful
- ♪ Turtles on skateboards
- ♪ All roads lead to the top ensemble
- ♪ All bands participate in as many activities as possible
- ♪ Celebrate, Celebrate, Celebrate
- ♪ Building individual skills

Logistics

- ♪ Setting up your rehearsal space
 - ♪ Grid, aisle, concert arcs
 - ♪ Teach with your eyes
 - ♪ Move, active monitoring is not just for testing
- ♪ Enter and exit procedures
 - ♪ Talking or silent
 - ♪ Questions
- ♪ Case and backpack storage
- ♪ Individual warm-ups
- ♪ Announcements
- ♪ Binders, pencils, extra music, water, restroom, etc.

Rehearsing

- ♪ Program-wide daily drills
 - ♪ Content
 - ♪ Tempos
 - ♪ Quality over quantity
- ♪ “Inspect what you expect”
 - ♪ Posture
 - ♪ Embouchure
 - ♪ Reed/headjoint/mouthpiece placement
 - ♪ Hand position
 - ♪ Instrument inspection
- ♪ Pull-outs and splits - utilize your entire staff
- ♪ Sectionals
 - ♪ Region/Technique
 - ♪ Concerts
 - ♪ Solos
 - ♪ UIL
 - ♪ Ensembles

Rehearsing (cont.)

- ♪ Sight-reading
 - ♪ Rhythm
 - ♪ Single-line melodies
 - ♪ Full band pieces slowly building in difficulty
- ♪ Introducing new music
- ♪ Have a plan!

Feedback

- ♪ Cup of Destiny - sections, scales, etc.
- ♪ Director feedback
 - ♪ Individual students
 - ♪ "Rehearsing like a _____ band."
If we are doing our job as educators, the good results should be a natural outcome.
- ♪ Student feedback - teach them how to do this
 - ♪ Compliment then constructive criticism
 - ♪ Volunteers
 - ♪ Involve everyone - pre-assign reluctant sections
 - ♪ Partners
- ♪ Objective sheets - pass, attempts, written comments
- ♪ SmartMusic or other recorded assignments

Performing

- ♪ Music selection/programming
- ♪ Fall, Winter, Spring Concerts
- ♪ Solo & Ensemble
- ♪ UIL
 - ♪ Clinics
 - ♪ Pre-UIL(s)

Adulting

- ♪ Attitude
- ♪ Constant dialogue
- ♪ Pedagogy
- ♪ Preparation
- ♪ Ear training and sight-singing
- ♪ Put students first!