



**Texas Bandmasters Association
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**Notes from the Road: Successfully
Navigating Your First Year as a Band
Director**

CLINICIANS:

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Notes from the Road: Successfully Navigating Your First Year as a Band Director

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Organization

- **Planning**
 - Staff Meetings
 - Calendar
 - Facilities
 - Lesson planning (paper or digital?)
- **Procedures: HAVE A PLAN**
 - You can't adjust your plan when things go wrong if you don't have one!
 - Be consistent
- **Physical Space**
 - What makes the most sense?
 - MS vs. HS
 - Delegating set-up/tear-down

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Organization, continued

- **Documentation**
 - Write down everything
- **Communication**
 - Email, Remind texts, phone calls, CHARMS, Presto, etc.
 - You can never communicate too frequently.
 - Be brief and professional.
- **Time Management**
 - Alarms on phone/watch for pack-up time
 - App "Timer With Sections"
 - Analog clocks in every teaching space

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This is a People Business: What to Know

- **Know your students**
 - As musicians
 - As people
 - This affects instruction
- **Know your parents**
 - Communication
 - Involvement

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This is a People Business: Who to know

- **Who else do you need to know and why**
 - Classroom teachers
 - The fine arts teachers on campus
 - Administrators and assistants
 - Janitors
 - Cafeteria workers
 - Central office
 - Band mentors
 - Counselors/case workers
 - Know who to ask if you don't know the answer

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This is a People Business: Building Your Goodwill Bank

- **How to build your goodwill bank:**
 - Go to your students' non-band events
 - Give out band shirts to employees
 - Leave borrowed rooms in good condition
 - Promote your program

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Tips for Teaching

- **Selecting literature**
 - Technical considerations
 - Aesthetic considerations
 - Diversity considerations
 - Get help
- **Lesson plans**
 - Necessary vs. useful
 - Short-term vs. long terms
 - Small vs. large groups

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Tips for Teaching

- **Rehearsal techniques**
 - First step is identifying problems
 - Score study and rehearsal recordings
 - Build a toolbox
 - Heuristics

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Releasing notes at wrong time | Clap and show release |
| | Clap and count |
| | Remove slurs/ties |
| | Articulate the subdivisions |
| | Audiation exercises (imagine the parts and say start/stop where appropriate) |
| | Use visual/aural cue where notes stop |

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Tips for Teaching

- **Classroom management**
 - Necessary part of teaching groups
 - Planning - dead space is your enemy
 - Procedures vs. Rules
 - Payoffs - the art of behavior reinforcement
 - Non-compliance - know your limits
 - Get help when possible

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Tips for Teaching

- **Expectations matter**
 - Communicate clearly
 - Pass offs/objectives
 - Standards do exist
- **Judge teaching by student improvement, not intentions**

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Running your program

- **Handbooks**
 - Absolutely necessary for a stable program
- **Travel**
- **Curriculum alignment**
- **Recruitment & retention**
 - Students must know they have a place in the bandhall and that they belong.
- **Marching show planning**
- **Boosters**
- **Budget/Finances**

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Questions?

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