



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

**Marching Band Techniques with the
Vandegrift High School Band**

CLINICIANS:

**Mike Howard, Joe Hobbs, Katie Hopkins,
Kyle Norris, Katie VanDoren**

DEMO GROUP: Vandegrift HS Band



HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER - SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

A Peak Behind the Curtain: Rehearsal Techniques with the Vandegrift HS Marching Band

Katie VanDoren, Mike Howard, Katie Hopkins, Kyle Norris, and Anna Bush
Texas Bandmasters Association Convention – Exhibit Hall 3, Friday, July 22, 2022

Utilization of Time

Rehearsal/Marching Fundamentals

- Lesson Plan
 - There is a daily lesson plan, a weekly lesson plan, and a long-term lesson plan that looks at how and when we teach marching fundamentals
- Full Group vs. Small Group Teaching
 - Repetition is key but finding different ways of explaining and teaching the same concept is where we find the most effective and efficient learning.
- Water Breaks
 - Could be a major time-waster, but we move VERY quickly. We also utilize a long break in the middle of the rehearsals when needed to give a break from the sun and to give them a chance to socialize/build culture. These are planned.
- Move with urgency. Teach with urgency.

Drill Rehearsal

- Lesson Plan
 - Make a long-term plan for when the show needs to be complete (Part by Part) and how that correlates with performances and rehearsals.
 - Make a short-term, weekly plan each week for how many pages need to be taught when.
 - Later in the year, the weekly goal becomes cleaning-based and includes musical, movement, and effect goals as well.
- Student-Involvement
 - Students must be involved in their own learning. This looks like counting and their improvement based on how chunks and sets are broken down (mid-sets, direction-changes, etc.)

Utilization of Staff and Instructional Leaders

Movement/Marching Training

- Turn the Microphone Over
 - If you are not the best person to teach a skillset, find the person who is and let them do it.
- Use Your Team
 - How can staff and students be utilized to achieve the most effective and efficient result? For us this involves how we use our Vision Dance Company and our student leaders to teach movement skills

Drill Rehearsal

- Where is your staff?
 - If someone is running rehearsal, they won't (and shouldn't) be looking at where the instructional staff is. Have someone in charge of moving them around the field to teach individual concepts that will impact the larger picture.
 - This is true for visual and musical concepts.
- Where are your student leaders?
 - You don't need them for the entire season, but as you move through the season, find places to allow your instructional leaders and drum majors to effect change in their area of the field.
- Get off the Tower
 - You don't need more people in the tower, you need more people teaching the individuals and sections on the field.
 - The person running rehearsal is keeping rehearsal moving, evaluating the larger musical and visual picture, and keeping track of the pulse of the group. They are teaching, but they can't and shouldn't be talking to individuals about their errors. That is what the field staff and other band staff is for.