



**Texas Bandmasters Association  
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**Small Band-BIG Responsibility**

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

# Small Band: BIG Responsibility

## It's NOT about the money!

### What is our PURPOSE?

- To create well-rounded citizens
- To develop soft skills that they'll use in life long after leaving the band program
- Teaching a pathway to excellence
- Creating experiences
- Know YOUR why! Your why might be different than ours.

## You are NOT on an island

### The importance of professional and personal relationships.

- All directors need a mentor who can provide valuable feedback and advice. You need a full support system.
  - Band mentor
    - Several mentor programs are available (REACH OUT to directors in your area)
    - Check out these Facebook pages: "Texas Band Directors" and "Band Hacks" There are TONS of directors who are willing to help and guide you!
    - "Band Hacks" also has a podcast!
  - Teacher friends
  - Social Friends
  - Family
  - Community (Church, social settings, Volunteer organizations, etc)
  - The rule of 3 (have a mentor, someone to grow with, and someone to mentor)

## If you build it, they will come

### Develop the band community within the small school culture.

- Would you want to be a in your band program?
- Building relationships within the school and community is essential.
  - Know your administrative team and communicate with them regularly.
  - Learn the business procedures for your district and be the perfect example for these procedures.
  - Develop and maintain healthy relationships with students and parents.
    - Try planning social experiences to engage your students and develop bonding.
    - Build TRUST
  - Learn who the important community leaders are and get to know them. This will benefit your program in numerous ways!

## It's not ONLY for large schools

### Set the standard of excellence.

- Start the year with a PLAN.
  - Inventory, Repairs, Summer Camps, Show Design, Guard Work, Budget Planning
- Motivate and delegate
  - How are you going to get your students to work for you? What will make them want to buy in?
  - If you have an assistant, collaborate! Work together!
- Teach the band in front of you.
  - Don't fall into the trap of "We SHOULD be able to play this!" Meet the band where they are. It's not about what they SHOULD be able to play, it's about meeting them where they are and setting realistic expectations for growth.
  - Less is more.
  - If the show music is too difficult, EDIT IT! Set your students up for success! There are lots of small school arrangers and composers out there- utilize them!
  - Start with the BIG 3: Fight Song, School Song, Star-Spangled Banner and make them immaculate.
  - BE CONSISTENT

## Help yourself to help others

### The importance of your mental health.

- Get a hobby that isn't band.
  - Find something that works for you!
- Create healthy strategies for dealing with every day stressors.
  - Life can get crazy sometimes. We need to create a barrier from our home life stress and the band stress.
- Put aside time for your friends and family.
  - Spending time with your loved ones is extremely important. Set aside time for them and don't let anything interrupt it.
- Make time to cope with the stress as needed.
  - Work through appropriate ways of expressing emotion to your students. It's okay to not be okay, but remember that your students see everything. Your response will be perceived in many different ways.

## It's all about the students

### We are here to develop and enrich the STUDENTS.

- Be the best band director possible for your students.
  - Teach each student every day.
  - Never miss an opportunity to make a good impression.
  - Your students will remember their experience way longer than their rating.

## Contact Us

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