



**Texas Bandmasters Association
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**Get Excited! Motivate and Remediate
Your Middle School Non-Varsity Band**

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It's all about the RELATIONSHIPS

- ★ Start as early as possible! Can start as early as the band interview - make a *connection* with the students and their families!
- ★ Prioritize learning the students' NAMES as early as possible!
 - You can have fun doing this!
- ★ Get to know ALL of the band students in the program, including those you didn't teach in 6th grade.
 - The first grading period is where you get to know them.
- ★ Familiarize yourself with some of the *current trends*.
- ★ Sectionals. Sectionals. Sectionals!
- ★ Meet your students where they are, not where you think they should be.
 - Constantly assess, evaluate, and adjust.
- ★ Build positive relationships with the students' parents. (They are your BEST supporters!)
- ★ Know your administration, staff and auxiliary staff!

Structure & Consistency

- ★ Remember, every CLASS is different, every school YEAR is different!
- ★ Know and set your expectations (the NV and Sub NV want to be treated like the Varsity!)

- Base everything you teach and how you teach around your expectations, AND communicate these daily.
- ★ Reinforce, Reinforce, Reinforce, Reinforce, Reinforce!
- ★ What do you want your rehearsals and sectionals to *look like*?
 - Don't wing it! - **always have a plan.**
 - No one ever failed from overplanning.
 - Be one step ahead of the students.

- ★ Look at the students! Don't bury your head in the music!
 - Get OFF THE PODIUM!
 - Do the students have their supplies?
 - Are their binders organized?
 - Is YOUR binder organized?
 - Are the students marking their music?
 - How are they marking their music? (Have you taught them how?)
- ★ Organization can help calm your mind and help you teach effectively.
 - Messy and unorganized teaching leads to ineffective teaching.
 - This will help you with your anxiety and mental health as well!
 - Your students will figure this out, too! You will lose credibility!
- ★ Does your non-varsity band class resemble the top band's
 - structure/vision?
 - Modify, modify, modify!
 - Rewrite music as needed.
 - Include and provide your students with the same (or similar) opportunities as the top band (for ex. pep rallies, festivals, contests, etc.)

Follow-Through

- ★ If you say it, do it.
 - Pass off charts
 - Attend your students' events outside of band (especially if they personally invite you)
 - Binder checks
 - Pencil checks
 - Expectations in the classroom
 - Contacting parents
- ★ Take time for yourself!

Please remember:

Prioritize yourself so you can be the best teacher for your students. ***Effective planning*** is significant to the students' success, but also for your well-being. ***YOU*** need to be in a healthy place physically, mentally, and emotionally in order to be the best version of yourself for your students and others. ***Ask for help*** when needed!

Thoughts:

It's always best to have your head director involved in your class as much as possible. Your head director is your FREE clinician! (This does not exclude the high school directors when possible!) The more opportunities and involvement your head director has with the non-varsity bands, the more cohesive your program will be. Their involvement with your students can provide more excitement to move up to the next band, or the next level! Your head director can help you in class, sectionals, pull-outs, or simply be PRESENT in your rehearsals.

