

NCBA Eastern
New Director Orientation
2007-08

Importance of Mentor Relationships

- Mentor Suggestions by Geographic Location
- Do not be intimidated to have an experienced director visit your classroom.
- Importance of receiving feedback from other directors
- ASK FOR HELP!

Organizational Skills

- Director with School Administration
- Director with School Faculty and Staff
- Director with Band Parents and Boosters including the Role of the Band Boosters
- Director with Band Students
- Importance of Meeting Deadlines with School/District Paperwork, especially student recommendation letters for college admission and various scholarships.
- Maintaining Well Organized Music Libraries and Band Instrument Inventories
- Trip Planning and Pricing
- Fundraising/Budgeting and Finances
- Developing and Maintaining your Band Website – Keep it current.
- Highly Recommended Resource Book – *Habits of a Successful Band Directors / Pitfalls and Solutions* by Scott Rush, *Gia Publications*

Communication Skills

- Band Handbook - containing grading procedures, after school rehearsals and performances, student/parent contracts, and financial responsibilities
- School Administration, Faculty and Staff
- Computer Generated Telephone Calling using *NC Wise* or *SIMS*
- Personal Communication with Parents and Boosters through monthly or weekly newsletters.
- Personal Communication with Students
- Band Website and Student/Parent Emails
- The “Power of a Handwritten Note” to a Student

Effective Planning

- Lesson Plans – Image on Screen with TIMELINE of lesson plan for smooth transitions
Important tool for directors to do their homework too!
Research, study scores, and listen to recorded music your band will eventually perform for STYLE purposes.
- Video Classes – Immediate Self Analysis provided for your use only for:
pacing/classroom management; accuracy of notes, rhythms and articulation; and the beauty and refinement of tone quality.

Consistency

- Student expectations from Teacher/Teacher Expectations from Students
- Class Routines – Attendance, announcements, passing out music, collecting forms, etc.
- Warm-up Procedure
- Smooth Transitions when moving from one task to another will save time.
- Discipline Issues are dealt with Equality and Consistency from day to day.
- Telephoning Parents with documentation to communicate any problems in class.

Importance of Participation in District Band Events

- All-District Band Auditions and Jazz Auditions
- Concert Band Festival and Jazz Band Festival
- Solo and Ensemble Festival
- Registration Deadlines – one month before event.
- Director Workshops – We are never too “old” to learn!

Advocacy

- We Must Always Promote our Band Programs as they are often in the first line of budget cuts.
- Establish Communication (in the following order) to make your needs and goals known.
School Administration
School System Administration
School Board Members who decide how the money is spent.
County Commissioners who determine the amount of money a school system receives.
Breaking this chain of command could prove problematic!
- School Administration and Guidance Counselors MUST understand the importance of what we teach in order to work out student scheduling conflicts.
- Educate Band Parents and Community of band success stories, testing statistics, and how we do so much more than teaching music. We build a strong work ethic and teach students how to work in a team setting, laying the ground work on skills they will use for the rest of their lives.
- Provide statistics and resources provided by MENC that proves band students score higher on standardized testing.
- Remember, band parents and supporters are the voting public! Personal communication between them and the elected official will help greatly.

“Student Centered” Choices

- Remove Your Ego - from deciding what is in the best interest for your students.
Always make student-centered decisions. Remember ...
It is their band!
- The PROCESS is absolutely as important as the final performance. What will your students remember 20 years from now? Winning first place, or how much they loved band.
- Competition is good ... but it can be very dangerous! BE CAREFUL.
- Band Directors are also counselors! Students have many problems and we often are the first to know. Students learn and perform better when they know their teacher truly cares about them. Remember ... they are not robots!
- WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO – to teach our students to be life-long participants in ENJOYING music for the rest of their lives!
This is an awesome responsibility for each of us.