

Four Pillars of a Successful Band Director

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I. Pillar 1: Asking for Help, Identifying Mentors, and Utilizing Resources

- A. Developing your list of mentors
 - 1. Former teachers and professors
 - 2. Colleagues, other teachers, former classmates
 - 3. Almost anyone in our profession!
- B. Identifying resources - Don't reinvent the wheel!
 - 1. Handouts, forms, contracts, scale sheets, rubrics, warmups, etc
 - 2. Printed Materials: Books, methods folders, charts, etc.
 - 3. Organizations: Midwest, State orgs, NAFME, MENC, etc.
 - 4. Online resources: Endless!
- C. Utilizing Guest Clinicians/Conductors
 - 1. The biggest mistake directors make is waiting too long to bring in a clinician. *The earlier the better*. They can't really make much of a difference the week before a performance.

II. Pillar Two: Organizing, Prioritizing, and Delegating

What prevents educators from being organized, prioritizing, delegating?

- A. **Being Organized:**
 - Creating lists: To do lists, Repertoire lists, Event or program checklists
 - Other things to keep track of: Reflection notes (examples provided) documents/email drafts/folders, CV/resume materials
- B. Prioritizing your responsibilities
 - 1. What is most important to your students, your program, and you
 - 2. Considering your personal life - Work/Life balance
- C. Delegating - Why don't we do this?
 - 1. What? Fundraisers, Paperwork, Activities, Copies, library, etc
 - 2. Who? Students, band council, leadership, Boosters, Other Staff?
 - 3. How? Start small and start gaining ownership for all parties of your organization

III. Pillar Three: Teaching Style/Approach

- A. General Thoughts:
 - 1. Teaching like yourself vs other teachers
 - 2. Being Concise in the classroom
 - 3. Utilizing rehearsal recordings
 - 4. Classroom management staples
 - a) Structure
 - b) Making classes fun
 - c) Knowing and caring for your students

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B. Fundamentals & Warm-ups

1. What prevents directors from doing daily fundamentals and/orWhat prevents us from *effective* warm ups?
2. Keep simple and targeted
3. Books/Packets - These are only aids to your teaching. They do not teach intonation, listening skills, tone quality, etc.
4. Daily fundamentals routines and scheduling

C. Engaging Students in Singing

1. Why is this important?
2. Where to start?
 - a) Meet your students where they are
 - b) Move at a pace where they will have success
 - c) Examples of pacing from beginning to sight singing

IV. Pillar Four: Relationships

A. Common issues?

B. Who?

- Students, secretaries, admin, counselors, custodians, parents, other teachers.

C. Why? All of these people are crucial to your program's success

D. Building positive relationships with administrators

1. Where to start/First impressions
2. Approaching them with problems or issues
3. Approaching conversations about money and budget needs