

Stay the Course: A Navigation Guide for the Head Director

Kathy Johnson - Director of Bands, Argyle High School, Argyle ISD
Darla McBryde - Director of Bands, Timber Creek High School, Keller ISD

Choose your Destination

- Establish program goals
4 year, 1 year, and season goals

Charting the Course

- Planning, Planning, Planning!
Use the previous year's calendar to plan for the year ahead
Create buffer deadlines

Using Your Shipmates to Trim the Sails

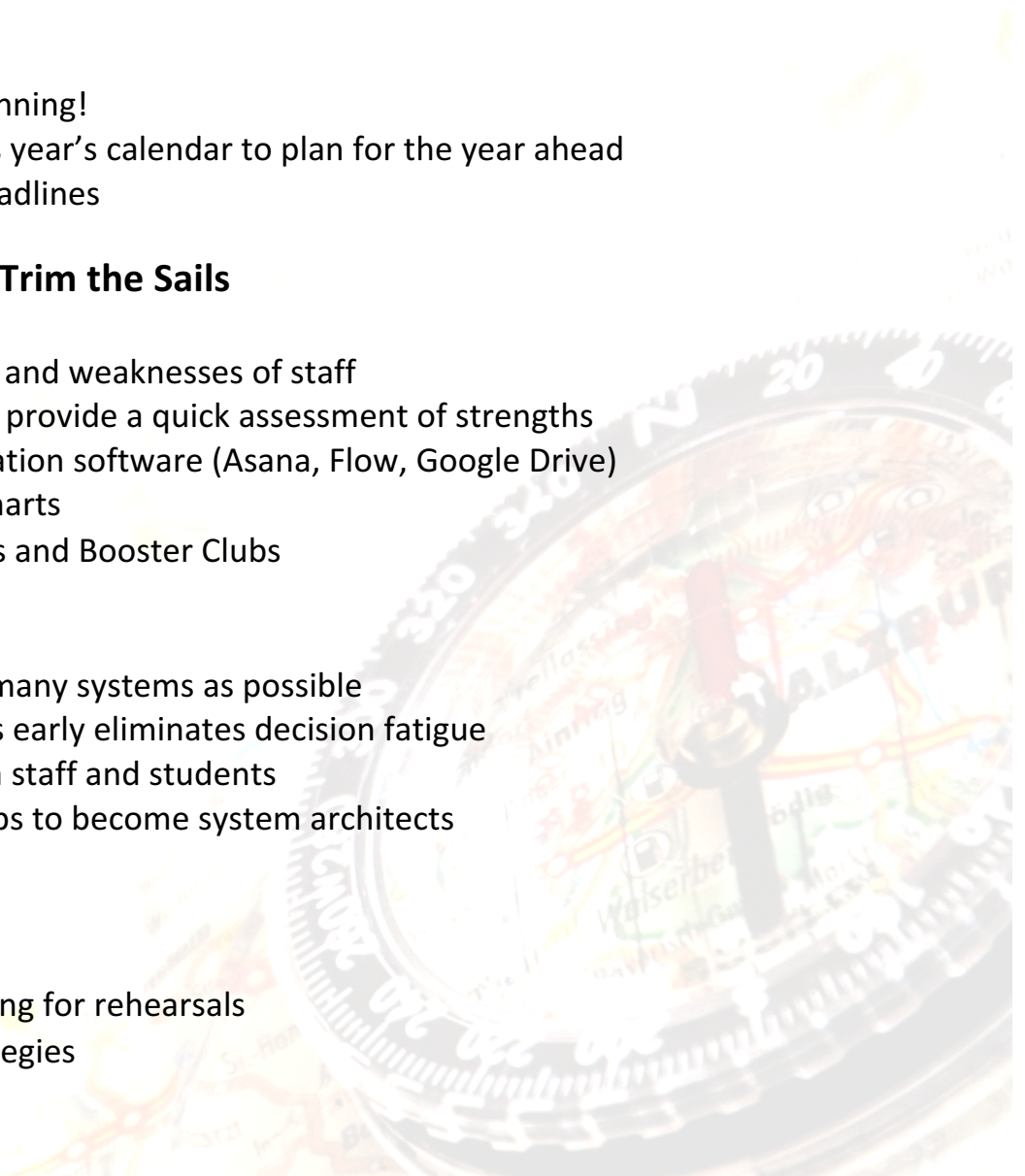
- Delegate
Assess strengths and weaknesses of staff
Personality tests provide a quick assessment of strengths
Electronic delegation software (Asana, Flow, Google Drive)
Responsibility Charts
- Include student leaders and Booster Clubs

Employing the Sextant

- Use tools to create as many systems as possible
Creating systems early eliminates decision fatigue
Invite input from staff and students
Allow both groups to become system architects

Navigating the Course

- Programming
- Preparation and planning for rehearsals
- Effective teaching strategies
- Practicing excellence



Smooth Sailing

- Create the culture of your program
 - Add more student leadership positions for greater ownership
 - “More people do less”
 - Celebrate student successes outside of band
 - Regularly publicize program excellence
 - Maintain a constant presence at feeder schools
 - Use smaller groups (drumline, chamber ensembles, jazz band)
 - Perform instrument demonstrations for elementary school classes

The “Old” Sea Dog

- Find a respected mentor to attend your rehearsals at regular intervals
 - Share your program goals prior to the first visit
 - Adjust yourself to “Listening Mode” when your mentor is present
- Mentors are available everywhere at all price points.

Shark Infested Waters

- All programs will have issues from time to time
- Communicate, Communicate, Communicate!
- Be respectful of time
- Remember, a parent’s role is to advocate for their child
- Remind parents that you are a partner in their child’s education
- Enlist administrators when necessary

El Capitan!

- You are steering the ship
- Take complete ownership
- You share successes and shoulder failures
- Build your team or “crew”
- Be the biggest advocate for your program
- Take note of what your staff needs from you
 - Encourage good self care
- Find balance in your career and home life

Kathy Johnson – txflutekat@gmail.com
Darla McBryde – Darla.McBryde@kellerisd.net