

The Process:

What Great Coaches Can Teach Us About Building a Better Band

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- There are many correlations between athletics and music
 - From a coaching standpoint and a playing standpoint
 - Focus
 - Discipline
 - Attention to Detail
 - Perseverance
 - Teamwork
 - Success comes as a group...which is made up of individuals
 - Now, everybody always says there's no 'I' in team, but there is an 'I' in win, because the individuals make the team what it is, and how they think and what they do is important to the team. So when you act like the individual is not important, well, it is damn important who these people are and what they are. -Nick Saban
- Nick Saban: What Does It Take to Win?
 - Game plan
 - Preparation
 - Flexibility/ability to adjust
 - Foolproof system and approach

I: GAMEPLAN- Laying the groundwork for successful musicians

- The Musicians/educators we admire the most have all these qualities
 - Musicians winning jobs now have these qualities
 - Character:
 - Thoughts: When your students play: process cues, concepts, world's greatest sound
 - Habits: Daily routine, Slow practice, recording your ensemble, use of metronome and tuner
 - Just run through over and over? (95% rule)
 - Priorities: time management, schedule rehearsal/practice, cancelled classes/rehearsals, fill every minute with productivity
 - These characteristics apply to directors as well as students. How are your thoughts, habits, and priorities affecting your ensemble?
- Encouraging good habits in your students:
 - Choices
 - Practice or not

- Study or not
 - “I’ll get to that later”
 - Prepare before a rehearsal or learn music in class?
- Ask students: “What choices have you made today?”
 - Sleep late?
 - Practice yet?
 - Football and video games all day?
- Students and programs cannot afford to not be this way
 - Schools cutting the arts
 - Limited Funding
 - Orchestra being shut down
 - Music business is more competitive than ever before

II: PREPARATION- Rehearsing for success

- Discipline in preparation
 - It is a choice
 - Doing the right thing--the right way--at the right time--ALL THE TIME
- Developing and maintaining the fundamentals on each instrument requires discipline
 - “Poor fundamental technique leads to poor outcomes”
 - Importance of doing group routine activities correctly
 - Don’t just do to do
- All of this leads to success
 - In music, business, or in sports- CONSISTENCY IN PERFORMANCE IS KEY
 - Easy to do it right (once)
 - Difficult to do it all the time
 - How will you encourage your students to do this?

III: FLEXIBILITY- Helping students develop the ability to adjust along the way

- Helping your students have the right mindset for learning
 - Learn from mistakes
 - Immediately in the classroom
 - In the practice room
 - From a good or bad performance
 - What leads to mistakes?
 - Flaw in technique
 - Flaw in character/preparation
 - Importance of listening to your teacher
 - How many times will your students hear...

- Daily Routine
- Use a metronome and tuner!
- Record yourself
- Important question for your students: What would the band sound like if everyone did everything you asked them to?

IV: FOOLPROOF SYSTEM- Expecting results from your program

- Investing Time vs. Spending time
 - Invest
 - Reading about music
 - Taking lessons
 - Listening to music
 - Taking care of your health
 - Attending optional band activities
 - Spend
 - Video games
 - HOURS on social media
- Expect the same from your band as you would your favorite sports team
 - What kind of team would we have if everyone only did the things that they were either good at or liked to do in practice?

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