

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST: SMALL SCHOOL BAND DIRECTORS

**MIDWEST BAND AND ORCHESTRA CLINIC
Wednesday, December 20th, 2017**

I. BE PASSIONATE

- A. Love what you do.
 - i. Do you enjoy the kids?
 - ii. Do you enjoy teaching?
 - iii. Do you enjoy seeing them grow as musicians and as people?
 - iv. Are you excited every day to get in the bandroom and get started?

- B. Have an impact.
 - i. You will have an impact.
 - ii. You decide whether it is positive or negative.
 - iii. Go to their activities outside of the bandroom.

- C. Watch your attitude (your students will).
 - i. What atmosphere do you create in your bandroom?
 - ii. Think about if you are positive or negative.
 - iii. Tips for starting rehearsal effectively.
(Say good morning and have them respond, try to allow yourself time to be ready to start rehearsal with minimum of distractions immediately before rehearsal.)

II. BE PROFESSIONAL

- A. How do you dress?
 - i. Dress the part of the professional.
(Small communities often take note of this)
 - ii. Dress can set the tone for rehearsal.

- B. How do you talk to students?
 - i. You are the adult, not part of their group.
 - ii. Be careful about corresponding on cell phones.
 - iii. Be careful of corresponding on social media.

- C. How do you talk to/work with teachers?
 - i. How do you address your colleagues?
(first name or Mr. or Ms or Mrs.)
 - ii. How well do you communicate student needs to other teachers?
 - iii. How good are you at sharing the students' time with other teachers?

- D. Attend conventions and workshops.
 - i. Don't stop learning.
 - ii. Great source of help and knowledge.

- E. Professional organizations.
 - i. Be active in these groups.
 - ii. Be a part of the leadership.

III. BE PRODUCTIVE

- A. Have a plan.
 - i. Go to work.
 - ii. Long term goals.
 - iii. Immediate goals.
 - iv. Know in each rehearsal what you want to get done.
(don't wing it)
 - v. Keep rehearsal moving.

B. Be efficient.

1. Tasks that you need to do.
 - i. Count money
 - ii. Do requisitions
 - iii. Bus requests

2. Tasks that students can do.
 - i. Set up room
 - ii. Check roll
 - iii. Pass out and pick up music

3. Spend time now to save time later.
 - i. Keep music library in order
 - ii. Lists for uniform checkout, folder checkout, etc.
 - iii. Money and fundraiser details up to date.

C. Control the classroom environment.

- i. Clean your room.
- ii. Classroom management.
- iii. Be consistent.

D. Evaluate your goals.

- i. Set high but realistic goals.
- ii. What is appropriate marching show for your community?
- iii. Pick right concert music for students to be successful.

IV. BE A PEOPLE PERSON

A. How do you treat people?

- i. Take care of support staff and secretaries.
- ii. Give out band shirts.
- iii. Ask, don't demand.

- B. Can you talk to people in the community?
 - i. What do people in your community do?
 - ii. Can you talk with them about everyday things, not just band.
 - iii. Being involved with community events.

- C. Can you talk to coaches?
 - i. Have to share kids with them
 - ii. Can you help them with events?
 - iii. Talk to them about scheduling events.

- D. Can you talk to administrators?
 - i. Keep up with current education trends and laws.
 - ii. Communicate with them often. (they don't like surprises)
 - iii. Remember they are trying to do their job too.

V. BE A PROMOTER

- A. Brag on your students.
 - i. Publish student's accomplishments in local newspaper, on band website or school website.
 - ii. Post student's good work on bulletin board in bandroom
 - iii. Band newsletter.

- B. Publish events.
 - i. Advertise upcoming concerts/festivals.
 - ii. Keep parents/community informed.

- C. Rewards.
 - i. Lifetime of great memories
 - ii. Legacy passed on.

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