

ABC's for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Year Band Directors

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Focal Points

The Craft
Politics
The Do's
The Do Not's
Do You! #Stress
Advice

The Craft, Three Movements

Movement One

- MPA Online/Handbook/Dates, etc...
- Budgeting
- Class Schedule
- Knowledge of Grade 1,2, and 3 literature
- Readiness

Movement Two

- Instrument Pedagogy
- Teaching Style
- Study your score (including method books)
- Fundamentals are key
- Rehearsal Techniques
- Error Detection
- Finding a way to hold students accountable

Movement Three

- Watch "good" bands

Politics

- How to educate oblivious administration and community on best practices and vision
- Teacher Evaluation
- Administrative Support
- Class Schedule
- Faculty Support
- Recruitment
- Lack of resources
- Parental Involvement

The Do's!

- Learn the culture of your community (IMPORTANT)
- Bookkeeping
- Inventory
- Set clear classroom and rehearsal decorum (you too)
- Reach out to colleagues
- Maximize rehearsals and class time
- Get to know your students (more than name)
- Leave work at work (easier said than done, but do-able)
- Recruitment
- Build relationships with parents
- Rehearsal Techniques
- Help others (your skill set)
- Understand district policies
- Know how to find your selections (MPA List)
- Learn about funding, grants, etc.
- Know what you want your band to sound like
- Focus on the students themselves (the rest will come)
- Principal's Secretary, Custodians, Teachers

The Do Not's!

- Need validation for what you are doing
- Neglect paperwork
- Being too tough and strict (happy balance)
- Neglect grading system and process
- Think conducting is the job
- Ignore your health
- DO NOT TOUCH STUDENTS!!!!!!!!!!

Do You! #Stress

- Say in contact with other directors
- Free weekends of work obligations (if possible)
- Hang with friends
- Go shopping
- Spend time with family
- Self-Reflect
- Listen to other bands (concert, jazz, and non-concert)
- Church
- Play your instrument
- Make sure you have things to do outside of school
- Reading
- Non-band things
- Travel
- Video Games
- Block Calls, Emails, etc. (certain times and days)

Advice

- Never assume you know the answers
- MPA, great but not the end all be all
- There will good and bad days (don't burnout)
- Learn the literature
- Trust yourself (don't compare yourself)
- Make time for friends and family
- This is your JOB not your LIFE
- Social media presence (be careful)
- Reach out
- Hold students accountable
- Don't stress over a job that will replace you days after your last downbeat
- More extrinsic rewards than intrinsic
- You are only one person
- Vent with trusted colleagues
- Investment of time is the game
- Be organized
- Have mentors
- Say, "Thank You" to parents, faculty, etc.
- Create a resource device (Dropbox, etc..)
- The grass is greener after your feet are wet
- Don't Give Up
- Nobody knows your program like you
- Do not let people who aren't in your band room tell you how to run your program
- Burn out is real
- Focus on the students and the ratings will come!