

It Takes a Village: The Importance of a Mentor/Consultant
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“A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself.” — Oprah Winfrey

Why should I have a mentor?

- Anyone can have a mentor!
- The journey of teaching excellence is a lifelong pursuit
- Gaining knowledge takes tenacity, persistence, patience and time
- To help you become the best version of yourself

Choosing a mentor: What to look for?

- Shared vision
 - Can they help you and your program grow?
- Trustworthiness and confidentiality
- Shows patience and understands your situation, environment, etc.
- Builds a personal and professional relationship with you and your entire program

The roles of a mentor or consultant:

- Helps you maximize your strengths and minimize your weaknesses
- Helps with establishing:
 - Classroom and administrative procedures
 - Pedagogy and curriculum
- Vertical/Horizontal alignment
- Accountability
- Mental and physical health

For the young teacher and/or assistant director:

- Building on the college experience/early years of teaching
- Expectations
- Pedagogy
- Classroom management
- Self-Care

For the experienced teacher and/or head director:

- Vision and Mission
- Curriculum
- Management and communication: staff, classroom and overall program

What a mentor/consultant should look for in your classes:

Beginners	Ensembles
Vision Procedures Alignment of curriculum Pedagogy Pacing and sequencing Student engagement Classroom environment Studio habits of mind	Procedures Daily drill and preparatory materials Pacing and Sequencing Scaffolding Literature selection Ensemble skills and listening awareness Student engagement Studio habits of mind

Finding a mentor/consultant:

- TMEA, TBA, Phi Bet Mu, Midwest Clinic
- Monthly consultants
- Young Educator Seminars (YES)
- Websites, podcasts, publications,
- Peers/colleagues, former teachers, etc.
- Region Band Clinicians, etc.
- Many, many, more!

Final thoughts:

- Do not be afraid of failure! We only grow when we are uncomfortable.
- Take care of yourself mentally, physically and emotionally.
- Get out of the band hall: if it can be done tomorrow, do it tomorrow!
- Have a social network and support system to keep you motivated

“The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image, but giving them the opportunity to create themselves.”—Steven Spielberg

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