



**The Future Band Director's Top Ten:
What You Can Do NOW Before You Start Your First Job**

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Here are the TOP TEN things you can focus on now before you start your first job...

10. _____
9. _____
8. _____
7. _____
6. _____
5. _____
4. _____
3. _____
2. _____

STOP!

The #1 thing you can focus on now is...

1. _____

10. Manage Your Time Now for a Chance at Work/Life Balance

- What did the pandemic teach us?
- Do not borrow from your future self!
- Mental and physical wellness
- Mindfulness (and techniques)
- Hobbies outside of music
- Make time for those you love!

9. Failure and Self Compassion

- Flexibility
- Forgiveness (for others and yourself)
- Compromise and Perspective
- Be humble and grateful
- Ask for help
- It is okay to fail! How can you improve the situation? Reflection?
- Genuinely care about yourself
- Genuinely care about your students

8. Start Networking Now

- Find mentors
- Listen more
- Stay in touch with college friends and former teachers
- What makes you likeable?
- How can you use that to become marketable?

7. Knowing Quality Literature

- What you play in college is most likely not what you'll be playing with your students in your first job
- What is quality literature?
- Focus on music grades 2-4
- Educational music and art music
- 80/60/40
- George Boulden: "The quality of your teaching begins and ends with the music you select to play with your students."

6. Observe

- Find who does it the best – hang out with them!
- They love to talk about the process
- Listen and learn!
- Watch the "second" group, not just the top groups
- You can learn from every situation (big/small, rural/urban, good/average)
- Size and quality do not go hand-in-hand

5. Sell What You Want Your Students to Buy

- Practice delivering information in diverse ways (differentiation)
- Brush up on your acting skills (on and off stage)
- Podium personality
- What is good communication?

- Know your stuff, know your kids, deliver the information
- Be comfortable in various situations
- Are you current in technology, lingo, student interests?
- Be VERY comfortable with the rehearsal process: Analyze, Diagnose, Prescribe, Repeat

4. Acquire Some Business Management and Leadership Skills

- Lead sectionals NOW (management skills)
- Rehearse pieces NOW
- Be active in organizations and ensembles, take leadership roles
- Volunteer to teach whenever given the opportunity
- Teach, organize, and advertise private lessons
- Turn in assignments ON TIME
- Rule #1, don't touch the money
- Who can you go to for help or clarification?
- This also enhances your musicianship skills

3. Teaching Diverse Learners

- We continue to change culturally (what does this mean?)
- Love and acceptance
- Teaching everyone
- Supporting students in all situations
- Resources for students in all situations
- Promoting a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion
- It is not our place to judge, it is our place to love and support

2. Strengthen Your Personal Musicianship

- Strive to be the very best you can be on your instrument
- Invest in your musicianship (DO NOT cheat the practice room)
- LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN!!!!
- You are at Hogwarts now, learn from everyone you can
- Teach private lessons; connects teaching to learning

1. Learn Secondary Instruments

- You can't teach what you don't know!
- Provides insight with troubleshooting performance issues and repairs
- Teach alternate fingerings, pitch tendencies, etc. from the start (teach the instrument)
- Cleaning and maintaining
- Do the minor prepares (without WD-40!)

Final Words

Have a **PASSION** for Music
 LOVE Working with Students
 DESIRE to Grow as a Musician and **TEACHER**

Thank you for being here today!

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