Blueprint for a Successful High School Band Program

By

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I.   Personal Band Director Philosophy
  A.   Long term and short term goal setting
  B.   Establish focal points for program
  C.   Patience
  D.   Traditions (maintenance or change)
  E.   Yearly calendar of events

II.   Concert Band (large ensemble)
  A.   Centerpiece of your program
          1. Place equal importance on all students and groups
  B.   Ability based large ensembles
          1. Equal importance to each ensemble
          2. Sectional Rehearsals
          3. Macro-micro-Macro Approach
          4. Guest Conductors
          5. Performance integrity, attire, location, acoustics
  C.   Conferences
          1. Local, state, regional, national
  D. Focal Period (explore your options)

III.   Marching Band
  A.   Educational Intent
  B.   Student Leadership
  C.   CEO
  D.   Music Selection
  E.   Festivals, Competition, Adjudicated Events (# of events)
  F.   Winter Guard
          1. Instructor(s)
          2. Programming
  G. Parades (local, national)
  H. Drumline (fall and/or winter competitions)

I.   Designers, programmers
J.   Rehearsals divided into music and movement components
K.   Separate warm-up areas/staff/section leaders for: brass, ww's, battery perc, pit guard

IV. Jazz Program
   A. Big Band
   B. Combos
   C. Improvisation Classes
   D. Educational Materials (videos, cd's, etc.)
   E. Performances

V.   Chamber Music Curriculum
   A. Small, medium, large Choirs
   B. 2's, 3's and 4's
   C. Literature

VI. Percussion Program
   A. Comprehensive in scope
   B. Limited marching band activities
      1. Very popular with students
   C. Winter Percussion Ensemble or Winter Drumline
      1. Support teacher/trainer philosophy should align itself w/CEO
   D. Guest artists, conductors, clinicians

VII. Auditions/Performance Exams
   A. Band placements/chairs a must
   B. Measurement tools
      1   Major scales and arpeggios, fluency, technique, etudes, sight reading, tonguing speed, rudiments
        a. Must be a challenge to each student taking the audition
      2. Practice cassette tapes w/director feedback
      3. Class pull-outs
      4. Region, District, All-State Band, Youth Wind Bands, Youth Orchestras

VIII. Private Instruction/Musical Enhancement
   A. Should begin in middle grades or early hs
   B. Must be an important ingredient in all programs
   C. Use master classes & artist recitals as a tool for recruitment
   D. Summer music camps for enrichment (not mb)
   E. If possible, use school as a host
   F. Must begin first week of school to be effective

IX.   Band Boosters
  A. Lead by band director
  B. Meeting should held be at high school (your working environment)
  C. Special Meeting with Booster President(s) to establish goals,
  D. Meet with all committee chairs
  E. Organizational By-Laws
  F. Web Page, newsletter, phone tree
  G. Use all of your booster resources
  H. Budget (designed by teacher)
  I. PATIENCE

X.   Personal Enrichment
  A. Attend band rehearsals local ms, hs, univ, professionals
  B. 1. Recording devices
  C. Attend Summer camps
  D. Visit other local schools in your area
  E. Attend as many honor band/all-state rehearsals as possible
  F. Graduate School
  G. Conferences (state, national)
  H. DCI/WGI local and national events

LASSITER HIGH SCHOOL BAND
Alfred L. Watkins

List of Accomplishments

I.   Director Philosophy
  A. Every child will learn to enjoy the beauty of music
  B. Every child will be able to produce a characteristic sound on their instruments by the end of their first year of hs study
  C. Every child be have a full understanding of their embouchure and demonstrate good breathing techniques
  D. Director responsible for: Introduction, motivation, training, information base, scheduling of events and leading of discussion in band
  E. Musical direction

II.   Concert Band
  A. University Symposiums
   1. Universities: USM '85, UGA '86, FSU '87, USC '88
  B. GMEA Convention ('86,
  C. Mid West Band Clinic ('89, 96)

D. Bands of America National Concert Band Festival ('93, '95, '02 – 2 ea)

E. Bands of America National Percussion Ensemble Festival ('00, '02)
F. Atlanta International Band Clinic
G. Black Music Caucus ('90)
H. Four or Five concert bands to District Festival
I. End of the Year Concert in Symphony Hall each year since 1990
J. Pioneered the concept of the Symphonic Band Camp in 1987

III. Marching Band
A. Winner of 75 of 80 competitions in school history (since 1982)
B. Bands of America Regional Champions ('95, '97, '98, '98, '01, '02)
C. Bands of America Grand National Champions ('98, '02)
D. Orange Bowl Parade ('86, '96)
E. Citrus Bowl Parade ('97)
F. Macy*s Thanksgiving Day Parade ('99, '04)
G. Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade ('88, '01, '05)
H. WGI World Champions Scholastic A – 96
I. WGI World Champions Scholastic Open – 97
J. WGI Finals – 98, 99, 01, 03, 04

IV. Jazz Band
A. District Festivals
B. GSU Invitational
C. UGA Invitational

V. Chamber Music Program
A. Lassiter Flute Choir (MW '89, FSU '87)
B. Lassiter Bassoon Choir (MW '89)
C. Lassiter Trumpet Choir (ITG Convention '93)
D. Lassiter Trombone Choir (IT Convention – '95)

VI. Percussion Program
A. Four high school percussion ensemble
B. One middle school percussion ensemble concert
C. Annual Percussion Ensemble Concert w/guest artist

VI. Auditions
A. Separate auditions for all organizations
B. 60-80 participants in District Honor Bands (4)
C. 30-40 students selected for GA All-State Bands/Orch annually (400 positions)

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VII.   Music Camps (as hosts)
        A.   6th Grade Carnival (one day)
        B.   7th Grade Camp (two days)
        C.   8th Grade Camp (two days)
        D.   HS Symphonic Band Camp (three days)
        E.   Percussion Ensemble (two days)
        F.   Jazz Ensemble Camp (three days)
        G.   Marching Band Camp (7 days)
        H.   Winter Guard Camp (three days)
        I.   Middle School Summer Band Camp (five days)
        J.   Chamber Music Camp (three days, pending)