

# Dealing with the Challenges of the Small School Band Program

presented by

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Munday C.I.S.D.  
Munday, Texas

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Introduction: A general overview of the Munday Band program.

- I. The Role of Band in the Curriculum Arena
  - A. Holistic subject
  - B. Intrinsic value of the program
  - C. Staff
  
- II. Student Role in the Band Program
  - A. Share the students
  - B. Student involvement in other school programs
  
- III. Financial Issues
  - A. Equipment Funding
  - B. Booster Clubs
  
- IV. Community Support
  - A. Value to community
  - B. Relationships
  
- V. Communication

**Summary:** The small band program is an integral and essential part of the community.

## **THE MUNDAY BAND PROGRAM**

- I. Fifth Grade Band (beginners)**
  - A. Prior music theory training in third and fourth grade**
  - B. Recorders in fourth grade**
  - C. Text used – Essential Elements 2000 (formerly used prior Essential Elements)**
  - D. Perform at Christmas, spring concerts (sometimes for Band Boosters in October or November)**
  
- II. Middle School Band (Sixth and Seventh Grade)**
  - A. Start in Fall with Essential Elements Book II**
  - B. Scale tests – with book first time, by memory second time**
  - C. Students in seventh grade encouraged to audition for Junior High All-District Band, Solo and Ensemble Contest**
  
- III. High School Band (Eighth through Twelfth Grades)**
  - A. Chair auditions are on ATSSB All-State music, scales**
  - B. Students encouraged to audition for All-District, All-Region Bands and Orchestra**
  - C. Students encouraged to participate in U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble Contest**
  - D. Students encouraged to audition for Wichita Falls Youth Orchestra, Wichita Falls Community Band**
  - E. Students encouraged to perform as frequently as possible – soloists and in ensembles (church, Christmas in the Park, church, nursing home, Open House, demonstrations to elementary children, etc.)**

# MUNDAY I.S.D. BAND STAFF

## RODNEY D. BENNETT DIRECTOR OF BANDS

Rodney Bennett is completing his twenty-third year as Director of Bands for Munday C.I.S.D. Mr. Bennett completed Bachelor of Music and Music Education degrees at Midwestern State University (Wichita Falls, Texas). He received a Master of Music degree in December, 1997 from Eastern New Mexico (Portales). At MSU, Bennett studied bass trombone and tuba with Robert D. Jorgensen (University of Akron). At ENMU, Bennett completed graduate hours in bass trombone and conducting with Dr. David Wilborn (Texas A & M University).

Mr. Bennett is a member of Phi Beta Mu, Texas Music Adjudicators Association, Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, Association of Texas Small School Bands, American School Band Directors Association, National Band Association, Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), North Texas Church Orchestra, North Texas Directors Band, Big Band Bones (trombone choir) and North Texas "Hallelujah" Band. Bennett is also a life member of Kappa Kappa Psi and former member of the United States Marine Corps.

Mr. Bennett is the current TMEA Band Division Chair, a position he has held since 1994. He has also served as TMEA Region II North Zone A-AA-AAA District Band Chairman. Bennett has also served on the ATSSB Board of Directors as the Class A representative (1994-1996, 2000-2002). He has served in various capacities for TMEA, ATSSB, U.I.L., and Phi Beta Mu.

Mr. Bennett is a member of the Munday C.I.S.D. District Committee and the Munday High School site-based management team. He served as interim site administrator at Munday High School from August through September 2003. Bennett also serves as Faculty Advisor for the MHS Chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society.

Bennett has been named to Who's Who in American Education (1996-1997), Who's Who Among America's Teachers (1992, 1998, 2000), TMEA Honor Band Director in 1994 and 2000, and was named Co-Citizen of the Year in 1993 by the Munday Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. He was honored by the National Band Association in 1994 and 2000 with the Citation of Excellence. Mr. Bennett was a 1996 recipient of a Texas Music Educators Association Scholarship for Graduate Study.

# MARILYN K. BENNETT

## ASSOCIATE BAND DIRECTOR

Marilyn Bennett is currently employed as Band Director and Elementary Music Specialist for Munday C.I.S.D.; she has served in this capacity for fifteen years. Mrs. Bennett has previously taught in the Holliday and Dalhart (Texas) school systems as assistant band director.

Mrs. Bennett is a member of Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, National Band Association, Association of Texas Small School Bands, Women Band Directors International, Pi Kappa Lambda, Mu Phi Epsilon, Music Educators National Conference, Delta Kappa Gamma, North Texas Directors Band, and the North Texas Church Orchestra. She is also a life member of Tau Beta Sigma.

Mrs. Bennett is currently a member of the State Board of Directors of TMEA, Region II Secretary, Region II Elementary Music Chair, Region II North Zone Secretary, and acts as secretary to the TMEA Region II Band Division Chairman and Region II ATSSB Chairman. She holds the office of Treasurer for the Wichita Falls Alumni Chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon, and has previously served as District Director and Province Governor for that organization. Mrs. Bennett currently serves as Chapter Sponsor for the Munday High School Chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society; she also serves as Coordinator for the MHS Chapter of Fellowship of Christian Musicians.

Mrs. Bennett received both Bachelor and Master of Music Education degrees from Midwestern State University (Wichita Falls). While at MSU, she studied with William Boyer (double reeds and conducting), Norval Crews (clarinet and saxophone), and the late Myrna Brown (flute).

Honors include Who's Who in Mu Phi Epsilon, Outstanding Young Women of America, Notable Women of Texas, Who's Who Among America's Teachers (1998, 2000, 2003), TMEA Honor Band Director (1994, 2000), Outstanding Young Women of America, and was a recipient of the National Band Association Citation of Excellence in 2000. Mrs. Bennett was named Co-Citizen of the Year in 1993 by the Munday Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennett have a son, Ronnie, a youth minister and certified professional trainer. He resides in Wichita Falls, Texas, with wife, Ashley, and daughter Emma Grace, age six years.

# **THE MUNDAY BAND PROGRAM**

The first school band in Munday was organized in 1938 by Mr. Freddie Hubbard. Munday I.S.D. Band celebrated their sixtieth anniversary in 1998. Throughout these years, the Munday Bands have represented their school and community at various functions throughout the State of Texas.

Students in the band program in Munday are given the opportunity to start their band career in the fifth grade. Students in beginning band receive daily instruction and are divided into woodwind and brass and percussion classes. Beginning band students perform two concerts yearly.

Munday Middle School Band consists of seventy-six students in sixth and seventh grades. Emphasis is placed upon concert literature and preparation for continued musical growth. Students in seventh grade are encouraged to participate in U.I.L. solo and ensemble contest, as well as TMEA All-District tryouts. All students participate in two concerts per year and one band festival which includes solo and ensemble experience. Since 1993, the Middle School Band has received consistent first-division ratings in concert and sightreading competitions at the Jacksboro Festival. The band has also received excellent and superior ratings in U.I.L. Concert and Sight-reading contests.

The Munday High School Purple Cloud Band is currently composed of sixty-four members. Of its membership, there are nine seniors, fourteen juniors, ten sophomores, nineteen freshmen, and twelve eighth graders. Since 1983, the Purple Cloud Band has received seventeen Sweepstakes Awards (1986-90, 1992-1999) and nineteen consecutive first-division ratings in marching (1984-2002). The band has participated in U.I.L. State Marching Contest from 1986-1989 and 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001 ranking from seventh place in 1986 to second place in 1995 and 1997. They have also been Area Alternate and State Alternate twice, respectively. Members of 1987-1988 Purple Cloud Band performed in the Texas State Capitol Centennial Celebration and Parade in Austin. The band also performed in festivities for the rededication of the State Capitol in 1995. Munday was named Best in Class at the Six Flags Invitational Band Festival in 1986. The Purple Cloud Marching Band was named KAUZ-TV (Wichita Falls) "Band of the Week" in November 1985. The band was awarded second place at the Texas Tech Marching Band competition in 1992. Munday High School Purple Cloud Band placed third in the 1991 and 2003 T.M.E.A. State Honor Band Competitions, and was named the Class A State Honor Band for 1993-1994 and 1999-2000.

The Munday High School Purple Cloud Band was honored in 1993 by the Munday Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture with "The Spirit of the Chamber" award. The marching band was selected to perform at the 2003 U.S. Army All-American Bowl in the Alamodome in San Antonio in January, 2003, where they were named "Most Disciplined Band." In the Fall of 2003, the Munday High School Band was selected to represent the State of Texas at the FAME American Musical Salute in Washington,

D-Day invasion in World War II, as well as the beginning of the liberation of Europe in 1944. The performances were held during Memorial Day weekend.

Members of the High School Band are encouraged to participate in T.M.E.A. All-District and Region Bands and Orchestra, ATSSB Region Band, Wichita Falls Youth Symphony Orchestra, and U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble Contest. Participation in these areas range from ten to forty percent of the total membership. Emphasis is placed on solo and ensemble performance; most of the students involved in this area choose to prepare solos, small ensembles, and medium ensembles. Several students each year also compete in the music theory contest. Participation in the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Contest has been a successful endeavor, often with one-third of the band participating. In 1993, Munday had the distinction of having the only string performer to participate in the A-AAA competition. Zoe Thaut, a violinist from Detmold, Germany, received a first division on a violin solo in the contest. In 1996, participants in TSSEC won the Class A Sweepstakes Award.

All students are encouraged to perform as soloists and ensemble members in many settings. The Jazz Band and Wind Ensemble have participated in U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble Contests on both region and state levels, receiving superior and excellent ratings. Students have participated in the All-State Band, All-Region Jazz Band, All-Region Orchestra, All-District Choir, All-Area and All-State tryouts. Band students have also participated in music programs outside the school setting, including the Wichita Falls Youth Symphony Orchestra, FFA National Choir and Band, FFA Band competitions, and the United Methodist Youth Summer Choir – Spirit Winds.

Students perform in various settings outside the school program, including community and church functions. For eligible students, Munday High School has a Tri-M Music Honor Society, chartered in 2001. In May, 2004 four students were selected as TMEA Music Merit Scholars (now known as TMEA Music Scholars). Interested students are given the opportunity to attend meetings for Fellowship of Christian Musicians. Students are given the opportunity for private instruction, either from the current staff or other teachers in the immediate area. Attendance at band camps, seminars, clinics, and leadership courses are also encouraged throughout the school year and during the summer months.

## *Munday High School*

Munday is a small agricultural community located in southeastern Knox County, named after the first postmaster, John V. Munday. The town is equi-distant from Wichita Falls and Abilene on U.S. Highway 277. Munday Consolidated Independent School District serves a large geographical area, covering 232 square miles.

Munday Independent School District was founded in 1889. The current high school building was completed in 1966, and another instructional wing was added in January, 1993. An additional classroom wing was added to the elementary school in conjunction with a new band hall, both completed in February, 1997.

In November, 2002, citizens in the communities of Munday and Goree voted to consolidate the two school districts. On July 1, 2003, Munday Independent School District officially became Munday Consolidated Independent School District. The school district employs forty-six professional personnel and twenty-five support staff. There are two campuses in Munday (Munday Elementary and Munday High School); Munday Middle School (grades seven and eight) is located in Goree. These three campuses serve 474 students.

Munday High School facilitates 131 students, grades nine through twelve, while Munday Middle School serves 78 seventh and eighth graders. Munday Elementary includes a student population of 256 (Early Childhood through sixth grade). An on-site child care facility includes twelve children of MCISD employees.

The educational philosophy of the administration and staff of Munday High School is to provide the best education possible for all students based on strategic planning, experience, and effort. With a strong instructional atmosphere and an orderly climate conducive to teaching and learning, students are provided an effective, positive environment in which to excel. The mission of Munday High School is to ensure the opportunity for each student to develop the ability to think logically, independently, creatively and to communicate effectively, thus allowing students to achieve their potential and make significant contributions to society.

In addition, Munday C.I.S.D. offers students a comprehensive music program, beginning in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Students are encouraged to be involved in musical activities through performance on the local, regional, state, and national levels. Various



competitions in solo and group performances are attended and encouraged as part of the development of the musician and student. Students perform for local service groups such as Knox County Retired Teachers Association, Knox County Veterans of Foreign Wars, Munday Lions Club, Beta Chi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, Munday Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, and Munday Ministerial Alliance.

In 2001, Munday Elementary School was named a "Grammy Select School" for its music program by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. Since 2001, Munday C.I.S.D. has been named to the list of "Best 100 Communities for Music Education in America", selected by the American Music Conference.