

Stronger Together

They're not Mine, They're not Yours, They're Ours

Synopsis:

Correlation and unity between feeder schools is essential to the success of any program. This session will share proven practices and ideas to facilitate the unification between High School and Junior High/Middle School music programs and improve retention rates during the transition to High School. This clinic will assist directors find meaningful ways to work together for the success of their programs and their students. It's all about the student!

Attrition Rates in School Music Programs

- **NAfME**
 - 15% loss after 6th grade – first year of playing
 - 12.5% loss after 7th grade
 - 15% loss after 8th grade going to high school
 - 10% loss per year after 9th grade
- **School Band and Orchestra Magazine April 2003**
<http://sbomagazine.com/2950-89survey-recruitment-and-retention.html>
 - 10% loss per year average

Building Collegial Relationships

- Open Communication
- Sense of Humor
- Musical Trust/Appreciation
- Sacrifice
- Shared Vision/Philosophy
 - Team work
- Deflective Praise
- Abundance Mentality

Developing a Band Program Culture

- Communication Parents
 - Representation on Booster Boards
 - Refer to things the same way i.e. the AF Band program
 - Perception is everything
 - Visible Positive relationships
 - Public relations
 - Be kind in public and private
- Communication with Students

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Challenges

- Administration
 - Hiring new teachers
- Parents (at beginning)
 - AFJH Band parent story
- Schedules
- Dispositions
- Philosophy

How do you make this work?

- You will be the driving force
 - Everyone is busy
 - Someone has to think outside their band room
 - Who doesn't want more students?
- Be positive
- You are always stronger together
- Don't Give up

Things we did...

- Associate Conductor
- Guest Conduct
- Guest Clinician
- Guest Soloist
- Concert Attendance/Recognition
- Band Bash/Pyramid Concert
- Family Night
- Marching Band Staff
- Shared Section Leaders/Coaches/Staff
- Elementary Recruiting Tour Fall
- JH Recruiting Tour Spring
- High School/ Middle School Tour
- Summer Band
- Band Camp
- Elementary Band at JH once a week
- Lunch
- Golf
- Conferences
 - Divide and conquer
 - Post Conference debrief; what did you learn?
- Annual Goals Meeting
 - Plot and Scheme!

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- Dream Big- Long-term Global vision
 - CHARMS
 - Private lessons
- Musical Skills
 - Vertical alignment
- Instrumentation
 - Bassoons!!!
- Equipment
 - Instrument list
- Money
 - Fundraising goals
- Go on the Hunt... who did not register
- Combined Band therapy
 - Whoever knows them best helps

What Happens if...

- Multiple Feeders
 - No problem...the more the merrier
 - Remember it's about the students
- Shared Teachers
 - Even better
 - Didn't your mom teach you to share?
- One program significantly stronger than the other
 - Find the good
 - Strengthen the weak

Pitfalls

- Insecurity
- Ego
- Pride

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- What are you willing to do for your students?
- In every case working together is better than work against each other!