

"From Worst Division to First Division in 52 Days"

Texas Music Educators Association Clinic

By

Stan Mauldin

Director of Bands

Pecos, Barstow, Toyah ISD

Education is an Art not a Science:

I am a high school band director: Expect Excellence

I am directly responsible for everything under my watch! My purpose is to set a direction for the program, build a consensus, recruit the necessary assets, work within the system in place and then allow the kids to become excellent!!

Winning is never accidental:

The kids crave commitment, discipline, passion etc. as a leader you must!

- have clearly defined goals
- consistent work habits
- resolve
- discipline
- design a strategy
- be better prepared and more focused than your opponent

Band programs are a partnership between the director, students, parents and administration. Any weakness in this partnership will become apparent in performances.

My job is quite simple: make sure the kids show up, learn music/drill, drive the bus/truck, repair the instruments, find a private lesson staff (or teach lessons/sectionals), load the truck, clean the band hall, raise large amounts of money, listen to the kids and their personal issues, please the parents, make sure the kids pass their classes, write the drill, write/changes in the music, perform in pep rallies, parades, concerts, halftimes, contests, prepare students for region band, solo and ensemble, coordinate asst. directors, order new equipment, take inventory, repair uniforms, check out uniforms, keep the administration happy, keep a budget, supply pictures/stories for the newspaper, set a schedule, feed the kids, keep the kids hydrated, **TEACH THE STUDENTS!!.....it goes on forever!!!**

Recruit help!

Music is fun: Why did you become a director? Now repeat that experience every day in your band hall!

Attitude

Your talent determines what you can do. Your motivation determines how much you are willing to do. Your attitude determines how well you do it. No one can control your attitude but you. Yet too often we let external forces or other people determine how we feel.

As a leader your attitude has a powerful impact on others. Whether that impact is positive or negative depends on the choices you make. You have an obligation to develop a positive attitude, one that inspires the people around you to achieve the impossible.

Great leaders possess a passion for their causes. When you care passionately about anything, it gives you a sense of purpose. You won't let anything deter you from achieving your dream. This is true in virtually every part of your life.

Most of us are too unconcerned to act on our own. Therefore, we need leaders to stoke our passion. If you want to lead that is the responsibility you must accept. And it starts with your own fervor; you can't fake it. If you don't have a genuine hunger to accomplish something, you won't be able to lead anyone effectively. But if you have a passion, you'll find it's infectious. You'll transmit it to others who will pledge heart and soul to your principle.

It is not your contribution on the field but your attitude off the field that makes a difference.

Remember: Everyday, some ordinary person does something extraordinary.

Today, it's your turn.

PECOS BANDS

It's not your fault: 15 band directors in 16 years; 6 Superintendents in 5 years make for an impossible learning situation.

You can do this: Which comes first...Being a champion or thinking you can be a champion?
If you are not yet a champion, fake it until you are!!

Everything is Optional: We only have one required thing to do in life. Everything else is optional. Learn these words: 'You don't have to _____ but you can't stay here.'

Wouldn't it be cool if.....?

Make a commitment: I've been married for 38 years; My commute to work 583 miles...Hopefully, I am teaching the kids something about commitment.

Be aware of the NON-Commitment, Commitment, and then devise a plan to combat it!

You gotta show up: Our society has become a "Do I really need to be there?" society. I think that if a multimillion dollar pro-athlete cannot come to practice because he is building a house, then it's hard for me to be tough on kids. Choose your battles...Choose only the ones you can win!

1095....Hurry Up!

Start from the very beginning: This is a trumpet!

Leaders: "As we go, they go:" You cannot expect the members to learn/ do anything before the leaders. If the leaders come late, don't show up, won't memorize their music, don't use the tuner, don't wear black socks, etc..... then the regular members will not.

People that have issues....have issues!

Ask: "Who has it?" My high school director would ask, "Who DOESN'T have it?" or "Who CAN'T play this?" We would raise our hands and he would help us. Kids today are not wired this way anymore; therefore, the question is "Who has it/ who can play it?"...then when the kids raise their hands you have a millisecond to see who does NOT raise their hand.

Stand up when you have it: "Who has letter A-B memorized?" "Stand up and play from memory" This creates HUGE peer pressure to learn your part AND it allows you to see who needs additional help.

Keep your Cool!

Google Knows Everything! An assignment for the Pecos Band was to use Google and download a fingering chart and a tendency chart. Additionally, there is an instructional video for everything, Skype lessons. You are not alone....Use the computer!!

Band is pretty simple! Get the right buttons down, play together, get good balance and it's mostly finished.
Ok the kids are playing the right notes but something is just not right, and I don't know what it is.

Stan's Default settings for teaching band:

- **The answer is air!!**
 - It's free! So take more air.
 - Open your back teeth and use more air.
 - Less pressure use more air.
 - Put more mouthpiece in your mouth and use more air.
 - Get your tongue down and use more air.
 - The bald British man wished he had (in a British accent) more air.
 - The best basketball player's nickname is air (Jordan).
 - The answer to every question, for a while, is air!!
- **It's out of tune!**
 - Use the tuner!
 - Use a personal tuner on the explosive instruments....flute, sax, French horn, trumpet...all the time.
- **It's out of balance!**
 - Break the band into groups:
 - Group 1 Tubas and Low woodwinds
 - Group 2 Trombones, Baritones, Tenor Sax,
 - Group 3 Horns, Alto Sax
 - Group 4 Trumpets
 - Group 5 Clarinets
 - Group 6 Flutes

Teach Excellence: Think BIGGER!!

Use a 12 wheel tuner....religiously

Daily Drill is Daily

Balance, tone/color, intonation

Use the "F" Word... FREEZE

ASPT: Adult Sponsored Practice Time

Sing

Make it a Competition

Let them choose the music: I put music I like in the folder. I don't really care which piece we play so let the kids choose!

Break it down: Make the bites smaller.

Keep changing it till you get it: We buy marching music from Aaron Guidry, yadaforluda.com. I think Aaron's music is interesting, challenging and easily customized to fit my group. We are into electronics and Aaron's music is super for us!

What you see is what you hear:

Don't have enough instruments? Performing a piece with 5 trumpets and you only have 4? Find someone to hold an instrument! No tubas? Get one!! You hear what you see!

Performance Opportunities:

Do it all: Do all the parades, tree lighting, region auditions, solos, ensembles at elementary schools and retirement centers. If someone asks...just do it!

Perform the good stuff: I'm old and I like the old music. Learn the good stuff.

Find a contest for success: WIN EARLY!! Look for a contest where you can place well! Nothing defeats losing like winning and if you don't win, look for major improvement. A loser is an orphan...a winner a hero!

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**2013 Pecos High School
Eagle Band
Mission Statement**

We, the strong, proud leaders of the
Pecos Mighty Eagle Band,
with our beliefs of hard work, commitment, and dedication,
will achieve our goals
of becoming a positive example to others,
therefore, creating a lasting legacy
of innovation and change.

Stan Mauldin

Stan Mauldin, a University of Houston graduate, is in his third year as Director of Bands for the Pecos-Barstow-Toyah Independent School District.

Mr. Mauldin has been the director of bands at Nolan Catholic High School, Fort Worth, Texas, Holliday High School, Holliday, Texas and Clear Brook High School, Friendswood, Texas where his bands were consistent first division award winners.

While at Nolan, the Nolan Winterguard was named the 1995 WGI IA World Champions. Under his direction, the Holliday band was a consistent Texas Music Educators Honor Band Finalist, two time UIL AA State Marching Band Champions and a Bands of America Regional Class Champion. In December 2002 the Holliday Wind Ensemble performed at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago, IL. The Clear Brook Band was a consistent BOA regional finalist and a Bands of America Grand National Championship Semi Finalist. In 2006 the Clear Brook Percussion Ensemble was named WGI Indoor Percussion World Champions

In December 2003, Mr. Mauldin was awarded the John Phillip Sousa Society "Legion of Honor" award and in 2007 he was awarded the Texas UIL Sponsor Excellence Award.

Mr. Mauldin has, for many years, worked with drum and bugle corps, most notably as a brass instructor with the Blue Knights, from Denver Colorado and as brass caption head for the Colts Drum Corps from Dubuque, Iowa.

Mr. Mauldin is an avid motorcycle enthusiast who owns a motorcycle apparel store, Renegade Classics of The Woodlands (www.renegadethewoodlands.com). During the summer of 2011 Mr. Mauldin rode his Harley 10,000 miles from Houston to the Arctic Circle in Alaska to raise money for the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston Texas.

The Mauldins' are a musical family. Wife, Bobbi, is a Texas Honor Orchestra Finalist, Midwest Clinic Clinician and the orchestra director at Krimmel Intermediate School, Klein ISD, oldest son, Matthew, is touring musician and a graduate of The Berklee College of Music in Boston, and youngest son, Christopher, is a Graduate of the University of Houston, is finishing his Masters Degree in Piano Performance and is starting his DMA at the University of Texas in Austin.