

Survival Strategies:

Thriving in your First Year at a New School

Alabama Music Educators Association In-Service Conference
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Embassy Suites - Montgomery, AL

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About the Clinician - Stuart Ivey

BME, Instrumental Music, Auburn University, May 2009

MM, Trombone Performance, University of Missouri, May 2011

2011-2013: Associate Director of Bands, Baldwin County High School, Bay Minette, AL

2013-2014: Director of Bands, Vinemont High School, Vinemont, AL

2014-present: Director of Bands, Huntsville High School, Huntsville, AL

Survival Strategies: Thriving in your First Year at a New School

- I Got the Job - Now What?!?
- The Pivotal First Days
- Create a Culture and System that is YOURS (Well, kind of...)
- Demand Realistic Expectations
- Reflect and Adjust

What are you hoping to gain?

Why I feel this is important

I Got the Job... Now What?!?

- First, Take a Moment to CELEBRATE!!!
- Be Careful Who You Tell and What You Tell
- Take Care of Everything That is Required in a Timely Manner
- Know What Your Job Entails

Before the First Day of School

- Parent/Student “Get To Know You” Meeting
- Classroom Preparation/Layout - “Reduce Your Inventory”
- Preseason Rehearsal Schedule
- Other Teaching Staff? Students Going to Camps?
- Content (Marching Band Show, Concert Repertoire, Special Programs?)

The Pivotal First Days

- Set Clear Procedures and Practice Those Procedures
- Err on the Side of Having Expectations that are Too High
- Make Sure Paperwork is a Priority
- Understand the Consequences of When Things Fall Through the Cracks

Creating A Culture and System that is YOURS (well, kind of...)

- If Possible and Appropriate, Use Your Predecessor as a Resource
- Use Non-Musical Activities/Programs to Create Your Culture
- Use Your Personality To Your Advantage
- Make Investments in Your Program

Demand Realistic Expectations

- Set Goals and Share Those Goals With Stakeholders
- Expect Only What You Can Give In Return
- Understand the Culture of the School and Community
- Students Will Accomplish More Than They Thought Was Possible

Reflect and Adjust

- Think About Everything That Was Successful
- Think About Everything That Could Have Gone Better
- Talk to Colleagues, Mentors, and Friends!
- Place the Needs of Students First

Questions?