Creating Time for ARTISTRY in the REHEARSALS

A Joint Ownership by Students, Parents and Teachers

FLORIDA BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION Thursday, July 8, 2010

John L. Whitwell Director of Bands Emeritus University Distinguished Professor Michigan State University

A universally accepted goal of music education is to bring our students to the highest possible level of musical independence, allowing them a lifetime of musical participation, appreciation and enjoyment. <u>Empowering</u> students and their parents to assume ownership of their assigned roles in this process not only enhances the educational growth of the students and encourages parental involvement, but also allows music educators to more effectively monitor the ongoing educational growth of their students and to manage the almost overwhelming burden of their many administrative responsibilities as well.

I. Student Responsiblities

- A. Student Staff
 - 1. Elected Officers
 - 2. Appointed Positions
 - a. Librarians
 - b. Section Leaders
 - c. Equipment Managers
 - d. Rehearsal and Concert Set-Up
 - e. Social Committee
- B. Daily Practice at home Whose Responsibility Is It?
 - 1. Tone
 - 2. Intonation
 - 3. Rhythm
 - 4. Technique Scales
 - 5. Interpretation
- C. Rehearsal Etiquette

- 1. Punctuality
- 2. Self-Discipline
- 3. Leadership
- 4. Positive Attitude
- 5. Citizenship
- 6. Conductor Sensitive
- D. Ensemble Skills
 - 1. Listening
 - a. Rhythm Pulse
 - b. Intonation
 - c. Balance
 - 1) Melody or Accompaniment
 - 2) Chords
 - 2. Music Decision-Making
 - a. Phrase Length
 - b. Phrase Shape "Direction"
 - c. Style
 - 3. Sight-Reading
 - a. Silent Preparation
 - b. Verbal Quiz

II. Parent Responsibilities

- A. Encouraging Students
 - 1. Correct Chair
 - 2. Music Stand
 - 3. Place to practice
 - 4. Time to practice
- B. Fundraising (NOT during Rehearsal)
- C. Uniform Issuing
- D. Chaperones
- E. Political and Moral Support

III. Director Responsibilities

- A. Develop Comprehensive Curriculum
 - 1. Good Literature
 - 2. Music History
 - 3. Music Theory
 - 4. Balanced Concert, Jazz and Marching Elements
- B. Score Study and Rehearsal Planning
 - 1. Observe Diagnose Prescribe
 - 2. Provide Aural Models
 - 3. Architecture Relationships
 - 4. Starting the Rehearsal
 - 5. Ending the Rehearsal

- C. Create Atmosphere for Music-Making
 - 1. Oversee Musical Process and Product
 - 2. Be Positive and Encouraging
 - 3. Develop Relationship of Mutual Respect
 - 4. Monitor Physical Condition of Room
 - 5. Play Recordings
- D. Administration
 - 1. Attend Meetings
 - 2. Return Phone Calls
 - 3. Put it in Writing Documentation
 - 4. Anticipate Deadlines
- E. Continual Growth
 - 1. Musician
 - 2. Conductor
 - 3. Teacher
 - 4. Well Rounded Person
 - a. Interests Other Than Music
 - b. Physical Wellness
- F. Personal Credo What are our responsibilities to:
 - 1. Profession
 - 2. Students/Parents
 - 3. Spouse
 - 4. Family
 - 5. Creator

Imagine the musical results if we could unleash the collective enthusiasm and genius that is within out students. This can <u>only</u> happen when the students have a strong sense of ownership for their individual growth and for their ensemble skills.