

Recruiting and Retaining Trombonists in the Band Program

Presented by:

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At the Kansas Music Educators In-Service Workshop

February 24, 2006 2:45-3:35

Century II Room 206

Wichita, Kansas

This program has been made possible through a grant from C. G. Conn.

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 - Washington State University
 - Indiana University
- Studied trombone with:
- Mr. M. Dee Stewart (Philadelphia Sym. Orch.)
 - Dr. S. Thomas Beversdorf (Pittsburgh Sym.)
 - Mr. Keith Brown (Philadelphia Sym. Orch.)
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THE HOOK

How to get the
student
wanting to
play
trombone
or
fishing for
trombonists.



The trombone demonstration

- Use the glissando, what a shameless use of a gimmick.
- Competition for chairs with upper classmen is less on trombone.
- Braces are not a big problem for the trombonist.
- Get them buzzing!
 - Reinforce the idea that they can be a great trombonist!

The trombone demonstration

Use every trick
you can think of
doing.



Pittsburg State University at the Pittsburg Christmas
Parade Nov. 28, 2005

Do the trombones
march at the front
of the band?



General Recruiting Tips.

- Get to know the students you are recruiting.
- Let them get to know you.
- Let them know you want them.

General Recruiting Tips.

- Let them know what the bands do: trips, competitions & trophies, make good music, et. al.
- Have some videos of the high school performances going on before the event.

Plan a recruiting event

- Demonstrations with live players work great.
- Use your high school students, community members, or other area directors.
- Videos are not as effective, but are better than nothing. Keep them short.
- Have your local instrument dealer there to let kids try instruments and rent them on the spot.

Begin recruiting before they reach the beginning band grade.

- Work with your elementary music and classroom teachers.
- Use videos well before your “event.”
- School concerts.
 - Bring the high school band in for some elementary school concerts. Do not assume that they attend your concerts even if you are in a small town.
 - Work with local arts groups for young audience concerts.
 - Check out your states arts commission and area universities. (Kansas Arts Commission <http://arts.state.ks.us/>)
 - Please remember that universities have a limited number of groups and their professors need to teach on campus too. Plus their students need to be in their classes. So they can not get to every school.
- Make up posters or purchase them from instrument companies
 - See if you local dealer will supply you with some.
 - There are both general posters and posters of artists.

Retention

- You must have a positive band environment.
- The musical progress of the group is important.
 - It must be fun to be a part of band.
- The student needs to see personal progress and growth.

Retention

- How about an end of the year function, even for the young students.
- Perhaps special awards for all levels of players.
- Prepare a power point show of highlights and don't forget the funny ones.
- Give them fond memories of their experiences. Make them want to come back.
- Announce scholarships of graduating seniors.

The 11th Commandment

Thou shall not place the brass in the front row of the band!

In beginning band everyone plays the same notes so place various sections up front in order to check on their playing SOI....

It is **TROMBONE** week, 'bones to the front.

