Dealing With The Athletic Monster

Dr. Frank Tracz
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Facts:

1. Athletics is part of our job.
2. We are in the business of changing lives.
3. College didn’t prepare you well for everything!
4. Bands are bands. Music is music.
5. “They” need you. You need “them.”

- Students
- Parents
- Administrators
- Community
- Athletics
1. Athletics Is Part Of The Job:

- Jazz Ensembles
- Concert Band
- Small Ensemble
- Pep Band
- Other
- Marching Band

STUDENT
2. We Are In The Business Of Changing Lives:

- Student Centered
- Teach The Student
- Use Music To Do This
- Task Is Huge
- Use What Is Available To Reach
- Create What Is Not Available But Necessary/Helpful
3. College Didn’t Prepare You Well For Everything

- Top 2 Reasons For Losing Your Job:
  1. Organization Skills
  2. People Skills
- Find A Mentor Outside The System
- Find An Ally In The System
- Research Other Ways
- “O.J.T.” Is Valuable!!!
4. Bands Are Bands. Music is Music:

- Foundations Are The Same For All Bands:
  - Tone Quality
  - Pitch
  - Blend and Balance
  - Phrasing
  - ETC...ETC...ETC...
5. They Need You, You Need Them:

- What Do They Want/Need?
- What Do You Want/Need?
- Similarities?
- Differences?
- What Do You Bring To The Table To Get What You Want?
Tips For Success:

1. What Do “They” Want?
   A. Pep Bands
   B. Marching Bands
   C. Pep Rallies
   D. In Game Cheers/Activities
   E. Support!!!
Tips For Success
Continued:

2. What Do You Want/Need?
   A. Financial Support
   B. Staffing Support
   C. Visibility
   D. Variety Of Opportunities
Tips For Success
Continued:

3. Working “Together”

A. Meet/Introduce Athletic Staff, Coaches, Etc...
B. Show You Are Interested In Them
C. Ask For Their Ideas
Tips For Success Continued:

4. Develop “School Unity And Purpose”
   A. Have Coaches Talk To Your Band
   B. Stay For “Entire” Game
   C. Play “Cheers” In Stands
   D. Build Traditions
Tips For Success Continued:

5. Communicate

A. Social Media

B. Letter To The Editor

C. Make The Bands The Heart And Soul Of The “Teams” And “School” And “Community”

D. Go To An Athletic Event – YOU!!!

E. Invite “Them” To Your Concert
Tips For Success Continued:

6. Build A Program...That Is...

- Comprehensive
- Inclusive
- Sincere
- Life Changing
- Valuable
- Changing Lives
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