

## Thoughts and Ideas on Recruiting for High School Music Directors

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*In order for the Middle School student to want to continue music in the High School setting, it is important that the High School Director work closely with the Middle School Director. Through the years, it has been my experience that the young Middle School student is quite scared to go on to the “big” High School, so getting to know the High School director(s), and the High School Students is of utmost importance.*

*We are all very busy as High School Directors, but the future of the High School program is crucial to the recruiting time and effort put in by the High School Music Department.*

*Hopefully, the following suggestions and ideas will help:*

- *Visit the feeder program at least once a month (This is really the ideal, but if not possible, read on to the other ideas)*
- *Find out when the Middle School concerts are, and attend them*
- *Offer to sit in with the Middle School group at their concert and play your instrument or sing with the group*
- *Ask if the Middle School director would like you to take out a section and rehearse them when you visit*
- *Invite your best looking guys and young ladies from the High School group to go to the Middle School and talk to the students or sit in and rehearse with them*
- *Make posters and signs from the High School to wish the Middle School students “Good Luck” on their concert, or at festival*
- *Make section posters from the High School Sections. Have all the HS students in each section sign the poster and wish the MS section “Good Luck”*
- *Have the HS students take the posters to the MS and hang them up in their music room. This really shows that the HS students care about them*
- *Send Congratulation and Thank you notes after the performance (This can be done by the HS Director and/or HS students)*
- *Offer to bring the HS group to the MS to perform. Middle School Administrators are always looking for free assemblies for their*

*Honor Card students.....and most of the Honor Card students are in music ☺*

- *The Middle School Directors can also see about getting the entire music department out for the assembly with the Honor Card Students*
- *Remember to schedule way in advance so as to give the scheduling administrator time to work out any conflicts*
- *When performing for the Middle Schools, please remember to do “kid” appropriate music. This is not the time to perform your most difficult high brow festival piece*
- *Before it is time for registration, communicate with the MS students and the MS Director as to what the students should actually register for when filling out the forms – you can fill one out and show them.*

*The above suggestions are not all inclusive and I know that many of you have done other activities to encourage the MS students to go on to the Music Programs in the High School.*

*Overall, the important thing to remember is the often quoted saying:*

*“The students don’t really care how much you know, until they know how much you care”.*

*Happy Recruiting – Sheri ☺*