

Theories and Application of Leadership in Band II

Fall Semester

Primary Instructor: Dr. Jonathan McKeown, jmckeown@mindsparke.net
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Additional Instructors: TBD

Course Description

This course is the second part of a two course series that provides students with an advanced look at leadership in a band environment. The primary focus of this course will be to explore leadership concepts in depth, provide leadership case studies, and learn how to assess and implement leadership practices and methods. The primary focus will be student leadership in band programs, however leadership principles are taught to generalize to all areas of leadership both inside and outside of band programs. The second part of this course is designed to provide leadership instruction and guidance while student leaders are in leadership positions in their band. A large focus will be providing each student guidance specific to their leadership position and situation. Instructors and mentors will be available to answer and address problems and situations that a leader may face as the school year starts. This allows us to not only provide leadership training, but serve as a resource to turn to when students need individual help , suggestions, and guidance.

Assignments & Participation

This class meets entirely online. You are encouraged to participate in each unit's class activities, which may consist of a reading assignment and some discussion or other learning activity on the discussion board. This course will also present case studies and scenarios for analysis.

Your participation in the discussion board and activities is also highly recommended. This course is a collaborative effort, where active sharing of diverse backgrounds and experiences is emphasized to enrich the learning experiences of all course participants.

Each week we will post a weekly update to the announcements on the course site. The announcement will remind you of exactly what needs to be done that week, and alert you to upcoming assignments or activities. You should check the announcement at the beginning of each week, and plan to log in at least 3 times per week to read new messages and contribute your own thoughts and ideas.

Suggested Texts

Kouzes, J., Posner, B. **The Leadership Challenge** 3rd Edition.

Note: Additional readings, lecture notes, and audio will be posted online.

Course Topics

The course is divided into 8 units. Some units will be one week in length; others may be longer depending on the topic of the unit. Many units build on the previous unit so it is critical to participate in each unit during the time it is being presented.

Learning Outcomes

The outcome for students who take this course will be to understand how to implement and apply advanced concepts of leadership in a band environment. Students will learn to assess and describe behaviors consistent with strong leadership practices. There will be an emphasis on “practical applications” in that students will move beyond the theories and concepts into a level of practical expertise regarding how to actually implement and describe leadership. Students will develop skills to grow as leaders beyond this course and acquire the tools and skills to self evaluate for self improvement. Finally, students will learn how to transfer these leadership concepts successfully into a band program.

Assessments and Grading Criteria

The grading and completion of this class has no bearing on grades within your school, or program. Any assessment or grading is provided only as an indicator of progress and participation that will be made available to only you and your band director in certain instances. It is expected that any student enrolled in this class has a strong aspiration to complete this course based on the desire to grow and learn as a leader. Please check with your band director to determine if the completion of this course or any grade given has any bearing in your band program. In certain cases band directors will request reports on students they require to take this course to determine if they successfully completed the course. In those cases a band director will be provided a list of only their students who have passed. Completion of 80% of the activities and assignments in this course are needed in order to be considered as having completed the course.

Units and Topics

Unit 1 Introductions, Overview, and Leadership in Action

Unit 2 Leadership in Band- What makes us different?

Unit 3 Keeping Everyone Motivated (Overcoming the Mid-Season Hump)

Unit 4 Fostering Collaboration

Unit 5 Recognizing Contributions

Unit 6 Lessons Learned (Class Sharing)

Unit 7 Moving Beyond Marching Band (Year Round Leadership)

Unit 8 Leadership in Review and Future Growth