



TEXAS BANDMASTERS
ASSOCIATION 2025

GET LiT!
CRAFTiNG YOUR PERFECT
LiTERATURE LiNEUP

LAURA BELL AND KATIE LEWIS



WELCOME!



Laura Bell

She has been teaching for 24 years. She taught in Carrollton-Farmers Branch for 7 years, then Prosper ISD for 9 years, and has been at Stafford Middle School in Frisco ISD since 2017. Laura is the co-creator of the "Band BFFs" podcast!

Katie Lewis

She has been teaching for 20 years. She taught in Plano ISD for 5 years and has been at Maus Middle School in Frisco ISD since it opened in 2010. Katie is the co-creator of the "Band BFFs" podcast!

BACKWARDS PLANNING

This is one of the most crucial things to start a successful year!

Summer:

- Taco Tuesday/Tuesday Tunes
- Listening to music
- Band BFFs Podcast!

July:

- TBA New Teacher Academy
- PBM Reading Band (tomorrow at 10 AM!)

August:

- Assess your students, find stars, soloists, best sections

Demo Concert:

- Class features
- Full song
- Parent Education
- Hot Cross Buns

Fall:

- Feature AR kids
- Spooky music
- Future composer? Style?

Winter:

- More soloists
- Technique Bump
- Future composer? Style?

UIL:

- Feature strong sections
- Soloists
- Program considerations

Spring:

- Fun! Future pep tunes
- Stretch the kids
- 7th graders on 1st parts
- Parent Involvement

EXAMPLE LINEUP

	Concert Band
Fall Concert	Courageous Spirit - Kamuf Black Cat - Standridge Midnight Mission - Balmages Scary Had a Little Lamb
Winter Concert	Band on the Housetop - Loest Diary of a Grumpy Elf - Loest Holiday Rock - Bernotas All is NOT Calm - Katie LaBrie Blizzard's Fury - Standridge Christmas Mash Up - Clark
UIL	Rust Belt - Owens Great Beginnings - Kamuf Fighting Falcon March - Stalter Elizabethan Dance - Williams Infinity March - Curnow
Spring Concert	Racing the Sun - Barrett Defying Gravity Mechanical Monsters Time Lord Astronomica

UIL

GOAL: I want to play a piece in Eb with a tempo change and with 5 difficult percussion parts.

WINTER

Program a piece in Eb and ensure percussion are challenged. Another piece could have a tempo change to reinforce the skill.

FALL

Program a piece that builds your percussion section. Ensure one piece has a tempo change to practice this skill. Bonus if it's by the same composer!

SUMMER

Research! Listen to music, make notes, Band BFFs, create a list of possibilities so you can easily choose what fits.



MAXiMiZiNG EFFiCiENCY

Whether you have the ability to have sectionals (outside of school rehearsals) a ton or not at all, here are some tips to plan for your rehearsals.

01

Marking your music for students so they have ALL the information YOU want in advance!

02

Using melody sheets, rhythm studies to teach every student the same thing together.

03

Daily Exercises for the group to focus in on a specific skill (articulation, style, dynamics)

04

Plan for Rehearsal Accountability!
Ensuring that with or without sectionals, students are held to a high standard.

MARKING YOUR PARTS

Handwritten musical score with various markings and annotations:

- Measure 240: *Forked* (handwritten), *mf* (dynamic), *f* (dynamic).
- Measure 248: *f* (dynamic).
- Measure 260: *ff* (dynamic), *Same note!* (handwritten), *sfz* (dynamic).
- Measure 272: *Più mosso* (tempo marking), *f* (dynamic), *ff* (dynamic).
- Measure 274: *poco accel.* (tempo marking), *f* (dynamic).

SECTiONALS!

TiME iNTENSiVE, BUT ESSENTiAL

- Know your sectional timeline and testing timeline
- Instrument specific pedagogy
 - Cichowicz flow studies, lip slurs, harmonics, octave slurs, M12 slurs, chromatic technique, scales work, articulation work, sight reading
- Plan your sectional time (i.e. what measures or piece need help)
- Show them how to practice
- Explain what markings on music mean
- TONS of rhythm work (if not using on a rhythm sheet)
- Relationship building with students



QUESTIONS?

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