Jesse Mack

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Reflection Week 9

This week was the first week that for most of the beginning band classes started playing together as a full band instead of separated by section. It was a little more challenging to work with a larger group. I think that for many of the students, I was able to get their respect in the sectional setting, and their behavior was fairly good. But now that they are combined with the other section, they felt much more difficult to control. I think that I did not give out as many checks as I probably should have because I would have liked to think that these students already know how to act in front of me. So this week, my tolerance for misbehavior will be much shorter. In hindsight, I probably should have realized this before the week even started because I knew that the classes were going to be bigger and it’s much easier for a little extra talking to derail a rehearsal.

 This week will also be the first time I get to rehearse a piece with the intermediate band as a full band. I’m going to use this as an opportunity to plan warmups that are appropriate and directly connect with the piece I’ll be rehearsing. I’ll also make it a point in my planning to make sure the students understand the connection between what we did in the warmup and how the same concepts, whatever they may be, would apply to the piece.

 This week is also our concert. I’ll be conducting two pieces. I’m not worried about one of the pieces, but the other piece has several tempo changes and cues that I really don’t want to miss. So this week, I plan on score studying every day until the concert. Something specific, I plan on doing is at least 3 mental runthroughs, on top of studying, every night where I conduct and cue an imaginary band in front of me. I feel that this should help me nail everything I need to when the time for the performance comes.