



Music Ed Insights



Key Insights to take with you from... Marching Arts Excellence with Jeremy Spicer

Considerations for directors of marching bands:

- Excellence is the first and purest effect; focus on getting musical basics to a high level before investing in props or other effects.
- If you have to choose between spending money on staff or money on props and uniforms, choose staff.
- Resist the temptation to do something that's never been done before - consider adding fresh elements to a tried and true concept - or just do something tried and true and do it well.
- Most marching bands are doing music that is too hard for the ensemble. Consider reducing difficulty a notch.
- When selecting music, pick music that works for you, even if you worry that it's been done too much. Most audiences won't feel that way when they hear you perform.
- The equipment your students use (instrument, flag) is the equipment that makes them special. Make sure they get to use it for as much of the show as possible.
- The key aspect of student leadership: I must have a positive relationship with the people I lead.
- Student leadership pointer number two: Spell out your expectations.