

25 Ways To Strengthen Your Leadership Skills

by Dr. Belva Worthen Prather

1. Assume leadership from where ever you sit.
2. Practice daily. Musical growth happens over time and rewards will eventually come.
3. Keep a record of your practice time.
4. Practice with someone who needs help.
5. Play your part perfectly! Every part is important.
6. Initiate a sectional.
7. Spread the enthusiasm. Host a party for your section.
8. Come to rehearsal prepared to learn. Have all required equipment...music, pencil, mutes, valve oil, reeds, etc.
9. Keep instrument in good condition.
10. Clean your instrument regularly.
11. Don't talk in rehearsal... and insist that others are quiet. (Peer pressure really works!)
12. Make a note of musical instructions... Once they are marked, you will never miss it again!
13. Have a pleasant, positive attitude in rehearsal. Your demeanor has an impact on the director and on your friends.
14. Value the band experience. The opportunity is not automatic. It is your organization and you must be responsible for it!
15. Encourage young players. Offer to assist with beginners. Attend their concerts.
16. Lend a helping hand without being asked to do so. There are always jobs to be done around the band room.
17. Offer to help in the music library.
18. Remember that energy and mindset are standard equipment for productivity.
19. Be competitive. Take guidance cheerfully.
20. Remember that your words and attitudes have power! The spirit of the band is a reflection of you.
21. Respect your director.
22. Respect others.
23. Stand up for what is right! Band is the ultimate team... The spirit, behavior, musicianship and attitude of one member represents all!
24. Carry yourself with confidence and pride.
25. Be a "leader". Be an **IDEAL BANDSMAN**.

Dr. Belva Prather serves as Director of the University Wind Ensemble, the University Wind Symphony, and the University Concert Band at Missouri State University. She is Professor of Music in the College of Arts & Letters where she teaches Wind Band Literature, Advanced Conducting, and Research in the Graduate College and serves as Associate Director of the Pride Marching Band.