



# Marching to Success Brennan Wingenter, Music Education Class of 2022

Professional  
Development

## SUMMARY

Over the course of the summer of 2019 and Fall 2019, I have worked with the Madison HS Band Program as a marching technician. In this position, I was tasked with giving specific marching fundamental instruction dealing with posture and foot technique to individual band students during summer band at Madison HS. As the school year progressed, my duties shifted to focus on helping students learn drill for the band's 2019 Marching Show, "Under Construction." The position also entailed serving as a general assistant to the professional high school band directors. As a future music educator, my goals for this experience centered around providing students with a positive, engaging learning environment as well as bettering myself as a teacher, and increasing my experience in the field.



## SPICES

I have had the opportunity to develop my teaching skillset both with regards to musical and marching fundamental pedagogy, while also learning about the administrative and logistical tasks that come with a high school band director position.

## HERBS

By acting with kindness and respect, I was a positive role model for students, and was able to demonstrate support for them as well as my fellow teachers through my attitude and my actions.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students have many different diverse perspectives, so learning to communicate subject matter in several different ways was essential to the teaching process. Team decision-making was also prevalent; this included things like crafting a rehearsal plan and delegating different teaching roles to different teachers. Self-reflection was also crucial; it was vital that I analyzed what went well and what didn't during rehearsal and produced a plan to improve.



## IMPACT

While the professional band directors handle the big picture and run the rehearsal, it was my responsibility to pay attention to the needs of individual students across the band field. This individual attention proved to be beneficial for students, both in performance level and confidence in their abilities. As far as myself, I believe this experience to be invaluable to the development of my teaching skills, not just regarding my delivery of material, but also in my ability to develop positive rapport with students.

## ADVICE

I would recommend keeping a teaching journal to reflect on your teaching and what you learn – practicing and reflecting on your teaching is one of the most efficient ways to improve your teaching skills.