

WHS BAND LEADERSHIP WIRED

"I" make(s) the difference...

Every year, organizations across this great country start out the same way. No one *wants* to fail...everyone *wants* to win! However all of us know of specific situations where well intentioned individuals are unsuccessful at achieving their goals. And remember-*one bad apple spoils the entire bunch!* Teams are always held back by individuals that are not willing to get on board with the overall direction of the organization.

So...what is the difference? What makes individual success stories and, in turn, team championships? Simply stated...

I

"I" make the difference

It all starts with an individual decision that ultimately manifests itself into team performance. Each individual in the unit *must* take seriously and buy into the *goals* and *mission* of the organization. Once the underlying values of the team have been determined, they must become non-negotiable. That means that *every* individual must look at their contribution to the team through the lens of these values. Goals and objectives must be set and evaluated using these guide posts. Then, it becomes the memberships responsibility to work together to establish and achieve the goals of the organization. In other words, *every* person has to move in the same direction toward the same destination. *Your* decisions as an individual affect, positively or negatively, the rest of the group. **Big responsibility!**

Integrity makes the difference

Integrity is the foundation upon which all other personal qualities are built. Things like respect, dignity, trust...these are all results of a strengthened sense of personal **integrity**. According to John Maxwell in his book *Becoming a Person of Influence*, "**Integrity** commits itself to character over personal gain, to people over things, to service over power, to principle over convenience, to the long view over the immediate."

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According to Webster's Dictionary, **integrity** means, "a firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values." Another definition describes the word as meaning, "the quality or state of being complete or undivided."

In *The Leadership Challenge*, James Kouzes and Barry Posner assert that "A leader with **integrity** has one-self, at home and at work, with family and colleagues. He or she has a unifying set of values that guide choices of action regardless of the situation."

Imagine a team where members understood the importance of being whole, undivided as to the mission and goals of the organization. Imagine a team where each individual member did what was right, simply because it was the right thing to do, and not because of some external motivating factor.

As we move forward this season and school year, remember that **you** have the ability to impact the success of the team more than anything else. Your **integrity** is what helps you maintain the right perspective. Take your responsibility seriously and help your team reach true greatness!

