

Wakeland HS Band



Leadership Wired: *Perseverance*

One of the blessings and curses of public school music education is that each year we as teachers have to hit the *RESET* button in June. The band membership of last year is no more, and the outcome of the present is undetermined. This is both a **GIFT** and a **CHALLENGE**. We are a new family setting out on a new journey of success together...and every year we **ALL** start the same way!

The Wakeland Band has a unique and special opportunity this year. We truly have the right people in the right place, at the right time. What a precious gift...too precious to simply pass through to the end of the year!

We must seize the opportunity that we have in the coming days to create something special together.

According to Webster's, *persevering* means to, "to persist in a state, enterprise, or undertaking in spite of counterinfluences, opposition, or discouragement." Vince Lombardi, the great NFL coach of the Green Bay Packers once commented that "*Unless a man believes in himself and makes a total commitment to his career and puts everything he has into it—his mind, his body, his heart—what's life worth to him?*" In fact, the author Robert Louis Stevenson stated that "*Everybody, sooner or later, sits down to a banquet of consequences.*"

Perseverance is a conscious choice. It is a choice that is made each and every day, moment by moment, to be committed to the vision of collective group. That vision includes members that have a passion to succeed not only as individuals existing in a vacuum, but as a group...a team...a family. It is this passion that Coach Lombardi was talking about. **Perseverance** comes from putting everything you have into this band ...mind, body, and soul. This becomes the focus:

"I must persevere because my team is counting on me to do my job to the best of my ability."

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Everyone will face the consequences of their decisions. The choices that you are making right now will impact not only you, but the other members of your band family. Are those consequences positive and edifying to the team, or will they affect the outcome in a less than desirable way? **Perseverance** is how we align the walk and the talk. Talking about success is something that everyone does at the beginning of the season. **Perseverance** deals with the consistency of what we say versus what we do, ultimately leading to a successful journey together.

The reality is that our society is full of examples where the **perseverance** to succeed is often missing. Choosing to move toward a collective goal will always create certain obstacles because consistency of action is difficult to master. Any move toward success will inevitably have times of opposition and discouragement. That is why band is so great...it gives us a very special support network to help us **persevere** through those inevitable times. Band is one of the only activities that aids in the development of this very important mind set of **perseverance**-- the ability to stick-to-it.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are indeed very blessed to have the right people, in the right place, at the right time to experience a journey of success together this year. What a gift! We have an opportunity in the next nine months to grow closer, have fun, and make lasting memories as a family, moving together in the same, consistent direction. The Wakeland Band is characterized by individuals that understand and recognize the importance of consistent **perseverance** each and every day. That is what makes this program so unique. What an opportunity to experience greatness together!

I am proud to be a part of such a unique group of young men and women!

Let's have a wonderful week!

Mr. Smith