



## WHS Band: Leadership Wired

*Our attitude can turn our problems into blessings-  
the GIFT of today*

“The past is history, the future is a mystery. Today is a gift, that is why we call it the **PRESENT**”—Stephen Lundin in *FISH!*

In *Awake, My Heart*, J. Sidlow Baxter wrote, “What is the difference between an obstacle and an opportunity? Our **ATTITUDE** toward it. Every opportunity has a difficulty and every difficulty has an opportunity.” Many times our attitude at the beginning of a task will affect its outcome more than anything else. Most projects succeed or fail before they begin.

Organizations that have direction and find great amounts of success focus first on building a strong foundation.

- **First**, we must pinpoint the essence of our program. Why do we exist? Why are we here? What is this band “thing” all about? The vision that we establish for our program will direct the focus of all of our endeavors.
- **Second**, we must get to know all of our people. Freshmen, senior—it is not about seniority or even ability. It is about establishing lasting meaningful relationships with every contributor to our program. Remember-it is all about people vs. people!
- **Third**, our organization is set up around these people and these relationships. We have a program where everyone has a place to belong. You are a valuable part of this band family.
- **Fourth**, our organization has a clear and compelling mission. This mission provides the direction that we as a program are going. We have specific goals that have been set by the Band Leadership Team that are measurable and attainable extensions of this painted target. This takes constant evaluation and alteration because the makeup of our environment is always changing. YOU bring a lot to this great team.
- **Finally**, we will always be brilliant on the basics. Not just the fundamentals of playing, but also the fundamentals of life. *Respect*, trust, reliance...all of these serve as the basics of a healthy balancing act. We must learn to adopt a “WE” or a team attitude. As we approach the beginning of this year’s band experience, it is not enough to choose a positive personal attitude. We must extend beyond our individual borders and learn to adopt a shared vision and set of goals. Your contribution to this team produces direct contributions to your personal mission in life. Just wait...you will see. Trust me-this team approach will provide an amazing environment for your own personal success.

The basic building blocks of any endeavor start with your attitude. I hope that you are choosing the right one. As your leader, I cannot wait to catch you choosing the right attitude. Inviting a playful culture, loving and hanging on to every individual and taking initiative to make a difference...what a gift! Today is a great present!!!!