

## Music Education Job Shadow Questions & Answers

Questions:

1. What is your name?

2. What is your job?

3. How long have you been a band director?

4. What do you like about the job?

5. What is challenging?

6. How is the job rewarding?

7. What has changed in the past 5-10 years?

8. What is continuing to change?

Answers:

1. "Luke Brinkman."

2. "Band Director."

3. "5 years."

4. "It's my passion. I love music and have always wanted to be a teacher."

5. "The logistical side."

6. I enjoy passing on music knowledge.

7. "The teacher evaluation system."

8. "The evolving student outlook on school."

9. What do you expect to change in the next 5-10 years?

9. "Again, the teacher evaluation system."

10. What sort of training/education do you need for the job?

10. "A bachelor's degree in Music Education."

11. Was it difficult to find work? If so, why do you think?

11. "It is an incredibly competitive job market."

12. Has the job market changed? If so, in what way?

12. "The job market has always been competitive."

13. Do you think it will change?

13. "It is difficult to say, arts programs are being cut."

14. What advice would you give someone just entering the field?

14. "1. Be patient. 2. Learn on your feet. 3. Be sure to plan ahead."

15. How should I prepare to enter this field?

15. "Practice your instrument, go to class, and be organized."

16. Is it more challenging playing or teaching and why?

16. "It is more challenging to teach because when you are playing, you are in control of everything and when you are teaching, you aren't."

17. How do you change your teaching style when switching between the high school band and lower grade level musicians?

17. I switch gears by changing the level of expectation. It is a lot more in the high school band.

18. Do you believe that even in Music Education that the teacher learns just as much from the students as the students do the teacher?

18. "Absolutely, I learn new things every day."

19. Where do you find the most excitement in Music Education?

19. "The progress of the students, watching them succeed. When a student just gets it."

20. What was it like learning the fundamentals of Music Education?

20. "A lot of field operations like going to see teachers teach. It taught me to be critical of even those who have done the job for a long time."

During my job shadow of Monroe High School's band director, Mr. Brinkman, I was given a completely new outlook on the career of music education. In my time of shadowing, I saw what it was like to direct concert bands of all age groups, not just high schoolers. In order to do so efficiently, he showed me how he simplifies all of the lessons and music that he gives his students. We talked about the process from college music education to entering the job. I sat in on all of his classes and even got to help a struggling student on an instrument that I am proficient in.

I now think that the career is a lot harder than what I had thought. Always having to be multiple steps ahead in lesson planning can really take a lot out of you. Being the only band director sounds difficult because you have to make so many different lesson plans, the classes aren't the same as one another. I have gotten a lot out of my job shadow. Being able to experience my dream job first hand gives me more inspiration to push myself for future success.