

Setting High Standards for Your Chorus

Objective - to provide directors & chorus leaders (members) concepts and techniques that will assist them in how to build and maintain a culture of high standards for their chorus. Exploring the unlimited possibility of achievement for choruses of any size.

Resources

The Art of Possibility - Rosamund Stone Zander & Ben Zander
Reach for the Summit - Pat Summitt
Harmony From the Inside Out - Jan Carley
The Perfect Blend - Dr. Timothy Seelig
The Perfect Rehearsal - Dr. Timothy Seelig
Choral Charisma - Tom Carter
Mindset - Dr. Carol S. Dweck

Three key factors in building and maintaining a culture of high standards for a chorus.

1. Know your chorus personality, culture and identity.
What kind of chorus are you?
Identifying your chorus culture
2. Where do you want to go?
Strong Administrative and Musical Leadership
3. How do we get there?
Have visions, expectations and goals.

Pat Summitt's Definite Dozen

1. Respect Yourself and Others

- There is no such thing as self-respect without for others.
- Individual success is a myth. No one succeeds all by herself.
- People who do not respect those around them will not make good team members and probably lack self-esteem themselves.
- When you ask yourself "Do I deserve to succeed? Make sure the answer is yes.

2. Take Full Responsibility

- There are no shortcuts to success.
- You can't assume larger responsibilities without taking responsibility for the small things too.

- Being responsible sometimes means making tough, unpopular decisions.
- Admit to and make yourself accountable for mistakes. How can you improve if you're never wrong?

3. Develop and Demonstrate Loyalty

- Loyalty is not unilateral. You have to give it to receive it.
- The family business model is a successful one because it fosters loyalty and trust.
- Surround yourself with people who are better than you. Seek out quality people, acknowledge their talents, and let them do their jobs. You will win with people.
- Value those colleagues who tell you the truth, not just what you want to hear.

4. Learn to Be a Great Communicator

- Communication eliminates mistakes.
- Listening is crucial to good communication.
- We communicate all the time, even when we don't realize it. Be aware of body language.
- Make good eye contact.
- Silence is a form of communication too. Sometimes less is more.

5. Discipline Yourself So No One Else Has To

- Self-discipline helps you believe in yourself.
- Group discipline produces a unified effort toward a common goal.
- When disciplining others, be fair, be firm, be consistent.
- Discipline helps you finish a job, and finishing is what separates excellent work from average work.

6. Make Hard Work Your Passion

- Do things that aren't fun first, and do them well.
- Think big, work small.
- Plan your work, and work your plan.
- See your-self as self-employed.

7. Don't Just Work Hard, Work Smart

- Success is about having the right person, in the right place, at the right time.
- Know your strengths, weaknesses, and needs.
- When you understand yourself and those around you, you are better able to minimize weaknesses and maximize strengths.
- Be flexible.

8. Put the Team Before Yourself

- Teamwork doesn't come naturally, it must be taught.
- Teamwork allows common people to obtain uncommon results.
- Not everyone is born to lead. Role players are critical to group success.
- In group success there is individual success.

9. Make Winning an Attitude

- Combine practice with belief.
- Attitude is a choice. Maintain a positive outlook.
- No one ever got anywhere by being negative.
- Confidence is what happens when you've done the hard work that entitles you to succeed.

10. Be a Competitor

- Competition isn't social. It separates achievers from the average.
- You can't always be the most talented person in the room. But you can be the most competitive.
- Influence your opponent. By being competitive you can affect how your adversary performs.
- There is nothing wrong with having competitive instincts. They are survival instincts.

11. Change Is a Must

- It's what you learn after you know it all that counts the most.
- Change equals self-improvement. Push yourself to places you haven't been before.
- Take risks. You can't steal second with your foot on first.

12. Handle Success Like You Handle Failure

- You can't always control what happens, but you can control how you handle it.
- Sometimes you learn more from losing than winning. Losing forces you to reexamine.
- It's harder to stay on top than it is to make the climb. Continue to seek new goals.