

High School Band Director Interview Questions – Extended List

Here's a tailored and well-rounded list of interview questions specifically for a high school band director position. These questions are grouped by focus area to help assess musical leadership, teaching ability, program management, and collaboration skills.

Philosophy and Background

1. What inspired you to become a band director, and what do you find most rewarding about teaching high school band?
2. How would you describe your philosophy of music education, particularly as it applies to instrumental ensembles?
3. What do you believe students gain from participating in band beyond musical skills?
4. How do you balance performance excellence with creating an inclusive, welcoming program?
5. How do you encourage students to stay engaged in band through all four years of high school?

Instruction and Rehearsal Techniques

6. Walk us through your typical rehearsal structure. How do you maximize instructional time?
7. How do you differentiate instruction for students with a wide range of musical abilities and experience levels?
8. How do you teach musicality and expressiveness in addition to technical skills?
9. What strategies do you use to develop sight-reading and music literacy in your students?
10. How do you approach instrument sectionals and individual accountability within the ensemble?
11. Describe how you handle tone, intonation, and balance issues in a large ensemble.
12. How do you incorporate music theory and history into your band curriculum?

Program Development and Performance

13. How do you choose repertoire that is both educationally valuable and engaging for students and audiences?
14. What's your process for preparing students for concerts, festivals, or marching competitions?
15. How do you assess student progress in both concert and marching band contexts?
16. What's your approach to show design and theme selection for marching season?
17. How do you balance the demands of concert band, marching band, pep band, and other ensembles throughout the year?
18. How do you handle performance pressure or pre-performance anxiety among students?

Leadership and Program Management

19. How do you build a strong, positive band culture that promotes teamwork and pride?
20. Describe your approach to student leadership positions (e.g., drum major, section leaders).
21. How do you manage equipment, inventory, and the maintenance of instruments?
22. What experience do you have with budgeting, fundraising, and organizing travel for band events?
23. How do you recruit and retain students for the program, especially incoming freshmen?
24. What are your priorities for growing or strengthening a band program over several years?

Collaboration and Community Engagement

25. How do you collaborate with other music staff members, such as choir or orchestra directors?
26. How do you maintain positive relationships with administration, parents, and booster organizations?
27. What role do you see the band playing in the larger school community and at public events?
28. How do you communicate effectively with parents about expectations, schedules, and student progress?
29. What ideas do you have for increasing community support and visibility for the band program?

Classroom Management and Student Growth

30. How do you create a disciplined yet encouraging rehearsal environment?
31. Describe how you handle behavioral challenges or lack of effort within the ensemble.
32. How do you support students who may be struggling musically or personally?
33. How do you teach responsibility, leadership, and respect through band participation?

Professionalism and Reflection

34. How do you continue to grow as a musician and educator?
35. Tell us about a time you faced a major challenge in your band program and how you addressed it.
36. What professional organizations do you participate in, and how do they inform your teaching?
37. What are your short- and long-term goals for our band program if you were selected for this position?

Scenario-Based Questions

38. You have a talented student who refuses to follow rehearsal expectations—how do you handle it?
39. The marching band's performance at a football game receives criticism from parents. How do you respond?
40. You are asked to take on additional ensembles or courses outside your current expertise. How would you approach that?
41. If you had a limited budget increase, where would you allocate the funds first?
42. What would your first month look like if you were hired as our next band director?