THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

STUDY GUIDE

MAKING THE CONNECTION:

• Have you ever wondered how big artists get musicians for their band? There is usually one person responsible for putting the band together and that is the Music Director (MD).

• What does a Music Director do for a professional artist/band?
  o A Music Director has several jobs both musically and managerially, not to mention a ton of responsibility. This is the reason they typically make double the money of what their band mates receive. Here is what they do and what they are responsible for:
    ▪ They are typically in charge of the hiring and firing of the musicians in the band
    ▪ When there is an opening in the band, the music director gets recommendations from various people for the open spot. They will typically be the one that holds auditions
    ▪ Makes sure the band is well rehearsed and sounds amazing
    ▪ The MD is responsible for making sure the band sounds great. If there are problems with the sound of the band, the artist or management will usually discuss this with the MD.
    ▪ Makes sure the band has music
    ▪ While the MD typically does not carry the music with them, they are responsible for making sure all band members have the required music and the correct arrangements.
    ▪ The liaison between the artist and the band
    ▪ Part of the managerial aspect of the MD job is making sure the artist is happy with the band and that the band understands what the artist is looking for. If the artist is not happy with a band member, he/she would discuss this with the MD and the MD would be responsible for the replacement. If the band does not sound as the artist would like, they would typically discuss this with the MD only, and the MD would then work with the band when the artist is not around.
    ▪ Liaison between the band and the management
    ▪ When issues arise between with band and management, the MD is the person in charge of trying to solve the issue. For example, if the band was not happy staying at motels, they would discuss this with the MD and they in turn would advocate for the band.

SAMPLE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT:

• How is an MD like a manager of a store?
  o Managers and MDs both responsible for their teams performance
  o Both need to have confidence in their team
  o Both are represent their team to the people above them.

• Name some traits you think are important to be a great music director.
  o Being well organized
  o Excellent communication skills
  o Tolerant
THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

- A great leader

- What would be a great way to meet a Music Director?
  - Potentially connect with them on social media
  - Try going to a performance of theirs and befriend them
  - Contact them about possibly auditioning for the band when a spot is available.