

BEING SUCCESSFUL WHEN ...

YOU HAVE INHERITED A THEATRE PROGRAM

ASK QUESTIONS

You don't know what you don't know....

What is the reputation of the program? How do you get copies made? How flexible are coaches with rehearsal schedules? Who are the Arts friendly teachers? How are outside events scheduled into your space? Are there alternative funding sources for facility needs? Ask, ask, ask.

GIVE YOURSELF TIME

It will take at least 3 years to make the program YOURS

Whether your predecessor was popular or drove the program into the ground, it will take time for students and staff to get used to things being different. When the Freshman of your first year are Seniors, then they have only known your ways of doing things.

WHAT CAN YOU KEEP?

How can you honor from the past?

Is there a pre or post show tradition? Are there silly awards given at the end of year awards? Do kids dress up to promote the shows? Did your predecessor bring flowers to all cast and crew on final nights? Students are people and they don't want EVERYTHING to change so small changes are better.

BRING A "YES, AND..." MENTALITY

Be a team player

Be a positive force on your campus and ready to help! Doesn't mean you are willing to do all the work, but that you are happy to lend your expertise and theatre magic to assist with things that raise your profile around the school.

ASK FOR HELP

It is too big and there is too much to know

You are new so first impressions count--don't demand and get blustery. Coming in "low status" allows people to help you and feel like the bigger person. Admit you don't know the ins and outs of the ways things are done here and ask for assistance. This doesn't mean to be helpless, but to ask and LEARN.

FIND WHAT MAKES YOU DIFFERENT

What sets you apart from your predecessor?

This can go a long way to making the program your own and helping others see that there is a "new sheriff in town." Doesn't mean necessarily mean you are rejecting all that was before, but what are visible things to indicate there is a new person in charge?

Don't try to change
everything at once.

