



Missouri Music Educators Association
A Federated Affiliate of the National Association for Music Education

June 26, 2020

Memo: Missouri School Superintendents

Twelve years ago, the Missouri Music Educators Association established a mentoring program for first year music teachers. For the past five years MMEA has sponsored a two-day clinic focused on assisting teachers in the **FIRST MONTHS** of their career. Sessions were offered for elementary/general music, band, and choir, plus clinics specifically tailored for the K–12 music instructor teaching in smaller school districts. This mentoring program has been recognized nationally, and our feedback from participants indicate it has improved retention rates of young music educators in Missouri schools.

Due to the ongoing situation with Covid-19, school cancellations last spring, and transition back into school this fall, MMEA is providing an additional resource to help beginning music educators across Missouri. The Missouri Music Educators Association will present “Jumpstart!” for first year Missouri music educators starting at 9:00 am on Saturday, August 8, via Zoom. This clinic will provide up to date information regarding classroom teaching during the Covid pandemic, resources, methods, best practices for online music education and equity training. This will be provided at no charge.

MMEA will also continue to provide the two-day on-site clinic at the Tan-Tar-A Conference Center on Sunday, September 27, and Monday, September 28, 2020. The conference is **FREE OF CHARGE WITH MEALS PROVIDED BY MMEA**. There is no registration fee. The only expense will be the cost of the hotel room at convention rates.

Workshop Goals and Topics for the September 27 & 28 Clinic will include:

1. Best practices for rehearsal/classroom management, including discipline problems and solutions
2. Organization and administration of the music education classroom
3. Building and maintaining a successful K–12 Music Program
4. School budgeting and business management for the music educator
5. Effective communication with students, administrators, parents, and district patrons
6. Diversity, equity and inclusion training for today’s classroom.
7. Networking with successful music educators to develop resources for ideas, techniques, and literature
8. Missouri State High School Activities Association Rules and Guidelines for Music Activities. This session will be led by Davine Davis, Assistant Executive Director of MSHSAA.

The Missouri Music Educators Association Mentoring Program goals are to assist young teachers in the first months of their careers and provide practical solutions to problems young teachers typically experience. There is a high dropout rate of first year educators nationally. Studies have shown that participation in a successful mentoring program can improve teacher retention. MMEA is committed to building and retaining quality music educators in Missouri.

The first step is to contact young music educators. This is where we need your assistance. If you have a first-year music educator in your district, please go to mmea.net and click on the Mentoring banner on the front page. This will take you to the page where you can register your teacher for both the “Jumpstart!” one-day clinic and for the fall conference in September. Please encourage attendance at both, as different materials will be presented. Feel free to share this correspondence with building level principals or Human Resource personnel.

You will be receiving further information regarding the “Jumpstart” August 8 Zoom session and the September 27-28 Mentoring Clinic in the coming weeks. On behalf of the Missouri Music Educators Association I would like to thank you in advance for your support of this project. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to reach out to me at mentoring@mmea.net.

Sincerely,
Steve Litwiller
MMEA Mentoring Chair
mentoring@mmea.net

110 Lori
Boonville, MO 65233
660-888-0694 cell
stevelitwiller@sbcglobal.net