

MMEA MENTORING CONFERENCE

September 27-28, 2020
Virtual Format



A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



C o n g r a t u l a t i o n s

on surviving the first few weeks of the school year! Not a single one of us would have chosen to begin a career in the midst of a pandemic. Truly, this is the year that ALL of us are first year teachers.

There are still so many unanswered questions, but the Missouri Music Educators Association is here to help.

Our nationally recognized Mentoring Program is designed to help you through these first years. None of us know everything when we step into the classroom for the first time. It takes years to hone the craft of teaching. As with any skill it is helpful to have an experienced guide that can pass on knowledge and advice. Many of you joined us for the Jumpstart! Conference in August where the sessions were designed to acquaint you with topics you would face in your classroom. Now that you have gained some teaching experience over the past few weeks, we tailor our September Conference to meet your specific needs. There will be more time for collaboration, question and answer sessions, and time for you to help each other.

This year, more than ever, we need to support one another, help one another, and check on each other. Rest assured that you are not alone. MMEA is here to provide support, guidance, and advice. As long as we stand together, we will not only survive this year, we will THRIVE.

Welcome to the profession!

Chris Sprague
MMEA President

A LETTER FROM OUR MENTORING CHAIR

Welcome to the Missouri Music Educators Association Mentoring Conference!

This clinic is designed specifically for music educators starting their careers in Missouri. Your success is important to the future of this profession and the quality of education that we provide in this nation. Every music educator shares a common background: someone in your past inspired you to become a musician. They supplied the encouragement, expert instruction, and a positive experience.



They were so successful that you chose a career that shares this joy and knowledge with others. It is now your job to assume that role of teacher, leader, and mentor for your students. This is a challenging, exciting, scary, gratifying, frustrating, and fascinating time to be a music educator, even more so because of the times we are living in as you start your career.

The impact you are making on your students NOW will resonate for decades. They will remember you even though it is your first year. Your teaching legacy begins on your very first day in front of a class. Because of Covid your students and your district need music more than ever before. Now is your time!

The colleagues and friends you make NOW will influence you for the rest of your career.

You will make mistakes. All learning is error correction, after all. The trick is to learn from mistakes by expanding your repertoire of new techniques, literature, and teaching strategies to become the most effective educator possible. That is why you are here and why MMEA is sponsoring this event. We have a panel of experienced and successful music educators to provide clinics and answer any questions or concerns you might have in your first few months of teaching. When in doubt, ask. Chances are somebody else wants to know the same thing.

Now is the time to take advantage of this opportunity to gain knowledge, build friendships, and network with other music educators. Learn alongside others as we go through the same experiences to build professionalism and excellence in Missouri. You and other young educators are the future of Missouri, now more than ever.

You are wanted and needed in this profession. Let's get to work!

Sincerely,
Steve Litwiller, Mentoring Chair
Missouri Music Educators Association

Sunday, September 27

1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. **Welcome to the Jungle!** [Zoom Link](#)

Presiding: Steve Litwiller, MMEA Mentoring Chair

1:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **General Session** [Zoom Link](#)

Teaching the 'Uncomfortable' Class and Motivating Apathetic Students

Vanessa Miner, MMEA General Music Chair, Moderator

Music educators are often assigned General Music Classes in grades 6-12 that have students with no music background and zero interest in performance. These classes are frequently a source of discipline problems and anxiety for the band/choir/orchestra specialist with no background in how to handle this classroom setting. The lack of preparation in college and the lack of curriculum and resources compounds the issue. This session will give attendees tips and tricks to navigate the secondary general music classroom and provide suggestions for curriculum and programming.

MTS: 5,6,8,9

3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. **Content Area Sessions**

YOUR Time, Part 1

These breakout sessions are designed in a Q&A format to answer YOUR questions, now that you've had a few weeks in the trenches. Please be ready to ask questions of your mentors about what you are facing.

MTS: 1,2,3,5

Choir - [Zoom Link](#)

Patrick Dell, Brian Hartman, Jodi Kratzer

Band - [Zoom Link](#)

Steve Litwiller, Kyle Donnelly, Shannon Crepps, Jacob Englund

Elementary Music - [Zoom Link](#)

René Spencer, Sheila Baer

Orchestra - [Zoom Link](#)

Aimee Veile, Joe Keeney

K-12 Small Schools - [Zoom Link](#)

Vanessa Miner, Chris Sprague, Elizabeth Betts, Leslie Chambers

4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **General Session** [Zoom Link](#)

If You Knew Then What You Know Now

Veteran teachers will share their best tips and ideas for a variety of subjects, but it is also your chance to share what you've learned the first two months with your colleagues. Some of your fellow first year teachers may have suggestions that have helped them. If you have questions about anything, let us know and we'll come back Monday with some answers!

MTS: 5,6,8,9

MENTORING CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Monday, September 28

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Content Area Sessions

YOUR Time, Part 2

Questions from Sunday's presentations will be discussed and ideas for the different classroom models will be discussed. These will include:

Fully seated, face to face learning

Best practices for masking, singing/playing indoors, ways to handle equipment (stands, elementary instrument packets, etc.)

Hybrid; days on/days off

Managing the technology, best platforms, tips and tricks for organization and rehearsals

Hybrid; some students face to face and some virtual all the time

Juggling the face to face mixed with virtual classroom. What works for both groups? What doesn't? How do you make it work for your class?

Virtual only

Effective use of technology, best platforms, tips and tricks for organization, tricks to keep at home students involved, how to build community.

MTS: 1,2,4,7

Choir - [Zoom Link](#)

Band - [Zoom Link](#)

Orchestra - [Zoom Link](#)

Elementary - [Zoom Link](#)

K-12/Small Schools - [Zoom Link](#)

6:00 pm Closing

[Zoom Link](#)

The Check Out

Keep in touch, stay safe, and GO CHIEFS!

Thank you for attending and best wishes for a great year. Stay Connected!



PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Sheila Baer teaches K-6 and a 4th - 6th grade choir in the Union R-XI school district. She received her BA from Goshen College, Goshen, IN, and her Master's in Music Education from the University of Central Missouri - Warrensburg. she has a teaching certification in Kodaly, Orff levels I & II and Level I in World Drumming. Sheila is co-director of the East Central children's chorale at East Central College and Elementary VP for MMEA east Central District #7 where she coordinates an honor choir each spring. The main focus for students in her classes are "get up, let's sing, move and play.

Elizabeth Betts is in her third year as the Director of Bands for the Maysville R-1 School District, where she teaches 6th-12th grade instrumental music. Prior to her current position, she taught K-12 music at North Harrison in Eagleville, Missouri. Elizabeth received her Bachelor's of Science in Music Education from the University of Missouri and is currently working on her Master's of Music Education from Kansas State University. She resides in Maysville with her husband Daryl, and children, Liam and Cadence.

Leslie Chambers received her bachelor's degree in music education from Missouri Western State University and her master's degree in conducting from the University of Central Missouri. She has been teaching band, choir and guitar in the Crest Ridge R-VII School District for the past nine years. Under her direction, the high school band has received exemplary ratings at state large group festival and continues to perform well in marching competitions.

Shannon Crepps is the Director of Bands at Saeger Middle School in the Francis Howell School District. Mrs. Crepps holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in Education, both from Truman State University. She is a National Board Certified Teacher (2012), an Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award recipient (2014), and was named the 2019 Saeger Middle School Teacher of the Year. She continues to play clarinet, performing as a member of the St. Louis Wind Symphony since 2016. She is an active member of MMEA, NAFME, and Phi Beta Mu.

Patrick Dell is in his 13th year of teaching choir, twelve of them at Hermann Middle and High Schools in Hermann, MO. where he currently teaches. He has music education degrees from the University of Missouri - Columbia (B.S.Ed.) and Boston University (M.Mus.Ed.). An advocate for music literacy, Patrick routinely presents clinics, works with new and experienced teachers, and writes materials used by many teachers and schools for sight-singing instruction and assessment. The HHS Kammerchor Women performed at the 2017 MMEA Conference.

Kyle Donnelly currently serves as the Assistant Band Director for Boonville Schools, where he teaches instrumental music to students in grades 5-12. Prior to his tenure in Boonville, he taught K-12 music in Pilot Grove, Missouri. He received his Bachelor of Science in Music Education from the University of Missouri and his Master of Music Education from Central Methodist University. He holds professional memberships in MBA, NAFME, and the International Tuba Euphonium Association.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Jacob England is in his fifth year as the Associate Director of Bands at Wentzville Holt High School and Wentzville Middle School. Prior to his arrival at Wentzville, Jacob taught 6th grade general music in Waynesville, Missouri. Jacob was honored to be the recipient of the Missouri Music Educators Association (MMEA) 2019 Outstanding Young Educator Award. Jacob is a proud graduate of Truman State University where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Music and Master of Arts in Education degrees.

Brian Hartman has been the choral director at Liberty North High School since its opening in 2010. Prior to his current appointment, he held similar positions at Lee's Summit and Lee's Summit West High Schools. He holds degrees from Wichita State University (BME) and the University of Missouri (MM). Brian is currently serving as President-Elect for the Missouri Music Educators Association.

Jodi Kratzer holds a degree in Vocal Music Education from Concordia University Chicago. She received an Outstanding District Director award from the Missouri Choral Directors Association in 2018 and earned her Level II Certification from the CME Institute for Choral Teacher Education in 2013. She has been the choir director at Fort Zumwalt North Middle School since 2014 and serves as the Middle School Choir Vice President for St. Louis Metro District 8. She also worked as the vocal music director for the City of O'Fallon's teen summer musical in 2017 and as Choir Manager for The St. Louis Children's Choirs from 2009-2014.

Joseph Keeney earned a Bachelor's of Music Education at UMKC and a Masters of Arts in Education degree from Webster University. He is currently the Director of Orchestras at Lee's Summit North High School and Bernard Campbell middle school and is in his 24th year of teaching. Joseph also served for eight years as the orchestra director of the Kansas City Youth Symphony Symphonette. Joseph has served as an adjudicator for many district and state level music festivals including Kansas, Iowa, and Oklahoma, Wisconsin as well as many area festivals in Missouri.

Steve Litwiller started his teaching career at Leeton, Missouri in 1978. He taught in Gallatin, and then moved to Boonville, where he taught instrumental music for 30 years. He retired in the May, 2013, and is now serving as adjunct professor of music at Central Methodist University. He, along with Paul Copenhaver, presented a clinic at the Midwest International Instrumental Convention in Chicago on "Beginning Band: Training and Retaining Students," in December, 2018. He received his Bachelor of Science in Music Education and Master of Education degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Mr. Litwiller is a Past President of MBA and is currently the MMEA Mentoring Chair. In June of 2014 he was awarded the Missouri Bandmasters Association "Hall of Fame Award." He is a member of the International Clarinet Association, the National Association for Music Education, and Phi Beta Mu. He currently is the Artistic Director of the Thespian Hall Conservatory Band and serves on the Boonville R-1 School Board.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Vanessa Miner serves as Vocal Music Specialist for the Fayette School District. She teaches K-5 elementary music, middle school choirs, and high school choir. She has taught vocal/elementary music in rural Missouri communities for 26 years. Vanessa graduated with her Bachelor of Music Education from Central Methodist University and her Master of Education from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

René Spencer has taught 31 years in public schools (Miller R-II and Mt. Vernon R-V), as well as 2 1/2 years at Round Grove Christian Academy. She currently teaches Elementary Music courses at Missouri Southern State University and Kodály levels courses at the Kodály Institute of Missouri State University. Mrs. Spencer has served as Missouri Music Educators Association Elementary Vice President, founding-president of the Kodály of the Ozarks, secretary/treasurer of the SWMEA and has presented educational sessions at colleges and conferences across the state. She earned her BME in music education from Southwest Baptist University, her MSE in instrumental music education from Missouri State University, Orff Level 1 certification from Missouri State University, and Kodály certification (levels 1 - 4) from the University of Central Missouri.

Chris Sprague has been teaching for twenty-eight years. The last twenty-five have been at Bradleyville, a small rural school in southwest Missouri serving 220 students in grades K-12. During her tenure at Bradleyville her bands have received numerous accolades, including selection to perform at the MMEA Conference in 2014 and multiple years of “straight 1” performances at the MSHSAA All-State Large Ensemble Festival. Chris is currently serving as President of MMEA and previously served as MMEA Band Vice President. She has also been heavily involved in the MMEA Mentoring Program for new teachers since its inception. In 2014, Chris was humbled to receive the John East “Spirit of Orpheus” Mentor Award, an award voted on and presented by the directors of the SCMMEA district. Her hobbies include fishing with her husband Matt, gardening, and watching Kansas City Chiefs football.

Aimee Veile received her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia and her Master of Music Education degree from the Boston Conservatory. She taught for the last 12 years with the Jefferson City Public Schools and has had orchestra students work with musicians and conductors from world renowned orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic and National Symphony Orchestras. She has served as the Secretary/Treasurer for the Missouri Chapter of the American String Teachers Association for 8 years. Aimee is currently serving as the Orchestra Vice President for the Missouri Music Educators Association. She was one of six Finalists for the 2020 Eisinger Teacher of the Year Award.

If you cannot see where you are going, ask someone who has been there before.

J. Loren Norris

