



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

August 1, 2022

Memo to: Missouri School Superintendents

Fourteen years ago, the Missouri Music Educators Association established a mentoring program for first-year music teachers. For the past seven years, MMEA has sponsored a two-day clinic focused on assisting teachers in the FIRST MONTHS of their careers. Sessions were offered for elementary/general music, band, orchestra, and choir, plus clinics specifically tailored for the K–12 music instructor teaching in smaller school districts. These clinics have been recognized nationally, and our feedback from participants indicates it has improved retention rates of music educators in Missouri schools. New this year, we are making this available to first, second, and third-year educators, as well as instructors transitioning into music education later in their careers and teachers new to Missouri.

MMEA will again sponsor a two-day, on-site clinic at Tan-Tar-A Conference Center on [Sunday, September 18, 1:00pm, concluding Monday, September 19, 2022 at 12 noon](#). 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 conference rates.

Workshop Goals and Topics for the September 18 and 19 Mentoring Clinic will include:

- Best practices for rehearsal/classroom management, including discipline problems and solutions
- Organization and administration of the music education classroom
- Building and maintaining a successful K–12 Music Program
- School budgeting and business management for the music educator
- Effective communication with students, administrators, parents, and district patrons
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access training for today's classroom.
- Networking with successful music educators to develop resources for ideas, techniques and literature

MMEA is also providing an additional resource to help beginning music educators across Missouri. The Missouri Music Educators Association will present “Jumpstart!” on Sunday, August 21 from 2:00pm-5:00pm via Zoom. This clinic will focus on the start of school and what music educators can do before school begins to set the stage for success. This is also provided at no charge. The link to the zoom meeting can be found under the mentoring tab on MMEA's website, www.mmea.net.

The Missouri Music Educators Association Mentoring goals are to assist young teachers in the first and second years of their careers. A new initiative is to support teachers who are transitioning from other disciplines into a music educator position. MMEA provides practical solutions to problems young and new 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 register them for the conference at <https://mmea.net/2022-mmea-mentoring-conference/>. Feel free to share this correspondence with building-level principals, Human Resource personnel, Music Supervisors, and your Activities Directors.

You will be receiving further information regarding the “Jumpstart” August 21 Zoom session and the September 18-19 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.

Sincerely,

Steve Litwiller

MMEA Mentoring Chair