



A Letter from Our Mentoring Chair



It is with great excitement and anticipation that we welcome you to The Greatest Profession. Music education has the power to shape lives and cultivate a lifelong love for music in our students, and your role will be pivotal in guiding them through their exploration and discovery. We are excited for you as you begin your journey and look forward to the fresh perspectives and enthusiasm you will bring to your students and to our association.

As you begin this new chapter, remember that you are not alone. The Missouri Music Educators Association is here to support you every step of the way. We understand that transitioning from student to teacher can be both exhilarating and challenging, and MMEA is committed to providing the resources and encouragement you need to succeed. At the 12th Annual MMEA Mentoring Conference "***Listen. Connect. Create.***" you will have the opportunity to do just that. You will connect with fellow educators, ask questions of seasoned veteran teachers, and learn some tips and tricks to implement immediately. Our hope is that you will soak in the wealth of knowledge and experiences around you, and actively ask questions no matter how trivial they might seem.

The Fall Mentoring Conference is only the beginning of our partnership. We will be checking in with you periodically, but do not wait for us to check on you. If you are struggling, reach out to your MMEA mentors, to your MMEA District Mentor, and to me. Again, we are here to help! Between all of us we will find an answer.

Your passion for music and education will be the cornerstone of your teaching. Keep in mind that you WILL make mistakes, and that's okay. Remember that teaching is a skill and can be learned just as you learned to sing or to play an instrument. Embrace the joy of seeing your students grow, learn, and discover their own musical talents. The impact you have on your students NOW will be both profound and long lasting on the FUTURE. The friends and colleagues you make NOW will influence the rest of your career.

Bloom where you are planted, right NOW.

Sincerely,

Chris Sprague

MMEA Mentoring Chair