

lege, university, or trade school. My role expands far beyond music teacher and into the more inclusive role as educator and guide.

How do you hope to make a difference in students' lives?

The difference I make in students' lives is gained through my efforts to create various opportunities for them to become the best musicians they can possibly be, and foster the development of a habit of being involved in music on some level as long as possible.

What is the most important lesson that you try to teach your students?

The most important lesson I try to teach my students is that doing anything well demands determination, perseverance, and hard work, whether that thing is making music, calculating math problems, or building bridges.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Name: James Butka
School: Dover High School
City/State: Dover, NH
Total years teaching: 26
Years at this school: 1
Number of students in instrumental music program: 95



What is your proudest moment as an educator?

My proudest moments are after performances but the ones that stand out have been at graduation. Seeing the emotion on the faces of the seniors after they perform for the last time with the band shows the strong bond they have shared and how important music has been to them in high school. I feel very fortunate to share that with them on one of the most important days in their lives.

How do you hope to make a difference in students' lives?

I like to give as many opportunities as possible to students to discover and realize the music and talent inside themselves. The many musical moments and memories from their involvement in music in high school hopefully inspire a lifelong passion for performing and supporting the performing arts. It's very rewarding when you have students go into the field but it's equally rewarding to bump into a student 15 years after he graduated and he still plays in his own band.

What is the most important lesson

that you try to teach your students?

Perseverance – don't give up. We live in a society that wants things done immediately but music is an art that requires time, work, patience, and dedication. My students know that in reality, an "A" in band is 99.9 percent and they strive for that. With that same work ethic, they can achieve anything in life.

NEW JERSEY

Name: Michael Raguseo
School: Middletown High School South
City, State: Middletown, NJ
Total years teaching: 16
Years at this school: 5
Number of students in instrumental music program: 120



What is your proudest moment as an educator?

I think a nice moment for me came at the end of this past school year. So many of my seniors were talking about their plans to participate in some kind of ensemble in college. They wanted to continue their involvement in music, and many of them chose schools based on if they would be able to participate in music. I know that many of my past students have stayed involved with music, but this group felt extra special.

How do you hope to make a difference in students' lives?

I really want my students to know that there is a place for everyone in music, and that the ability to interact with music as a performer is something that they can carry with them always.

What is the most important lesson that you try to teach your students?

I really try to impress on my students that anything worth doing is worth doing well. I very often describe being in a music ensemble as the ultimate team sport. We don't have a bench to go to when someone isn't performing their best. Our outcome is dependent on everyone putting in the work and making an effort to improve. Only when everyone is working together, listening to one another, and applying themselves as musicians will we achieve the desired outcome.

NEW MEXICO

Name: Donna O'Bryant
School: Gattis Middle School
City, State: Clovis, NM

Total years teaching: 18
Years at this school: one year opened it as a brand new school!
Number of students in instrumental music program: 250



What is your proudest moment as an educator?

My proudest moment as a band director (music educator) is when my students realize that they can do it! When they have made all district, all region, all area, all state! The overwhelming feeling is when the band corporately accomplishes a goal like Sweepstakes. When they realize that they are capable and succeed, there is no prouder moment.

How do you hope to make a difference in students' lives?

By facilitating a love for music as well as holding them to the highest-standards musically. It changes their heart and they are never the same or satisfied with status quo. Inspire them to chase perfection...no one achieves that, however excellence is the result!

What is the most important lesson that you try to teach your students? Be true to yourself!

Celebrate who you are and run with it. You are unique and amazing... live as if you are thankful for being made that way.

NEW YORK

Name: Richard F. Guillen
School: Arlington High School
City, State: LaGrangeville, NY
Total years teaching: 26
Years at this school: 18
Number of students in instrumental music program: 600



What is your proudest moment as an educator?

There is no way I could pinpoint just one "proudest moment." There are so many wonderful moments that I have been so fortunate to have been a part of and I've worked with so many wonderful educators and students in my career. I think the proudest moments come when former students, parents, or colleagues are kind enough to share with me the positive impact I've had in their lives and the

wonderful memories they have.

How do you hope to make a difference in students' lives?

I hope to instill in my students a deeper love and understanding for music on as many levels as possible and to never let them settle for anything less than their best, most passionate efforts in all they do. Whether they choose music as a career or they simply become consumers and supporters of music, I hope they look back on their time in our program with joy, fond memories of their experiences, and appreciation for the skills and lessons they learned.

What is the most important lesson that you try to teach your students?

I believe in pushing my students to be the very best they can be, to never stop believing in their potential, and encourage them to have a voice in the process. I hope they take with them the skills that participation in music has taught them: dedication, perseverance, teamwork, commitment, dignity, and pride in one's work. While competition is a great motivator, I'm really proud when students realize that it isn't just about winning, high scores, championships, or festivals, but the hard work, pride, and team-spirit that come as by-products of that journey.

A lot of the time the attitude and apathy that can be associated with the middle school age group, especially 7th grade, is really just an act. When students are encouraged and pushed to achieve true success we are giving them a sense of accomplishment, belonging, and a boost to their self-esteem that they will take with them when they leave our band room. I believe in teaching the individual, pushing individual musicianship, and relentlessly demanding the best in our students. We do it not just because it helps the band to be better, but more importantly because it makes our students better people and gives them the confidence they need to be successful in everything they do.

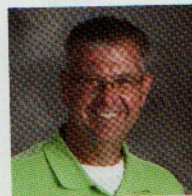
What is the most important lesson that you try to teach your students?

I try to teach my students to do their best and to never settle for anything less. I listened to an interview recently with William Revelli in which he stated that he and his students had "a mutual agreement that just about right was not good enough." If my students learn that lesson in my band room and take that kind of attitude into everything they do at school and in their lives they are going to be much better for it.

To be a great person, love what you do, be responsible, and always enjoy music.

OHIO

Name: Alan G. Notestine
School: Dempsey Middle School, Willis Intermediate and Hayes HS
City, State: Delaware, OH
Total years teaching: 23
Years at current school: 7
Number of students in instrumental music program: 240



What is your proudest moment as an educator?

My first thought is of one of my first students, who took a winding road to pursue his passion as a music teacher but has arrived and absolutely loves what he does. The second is watching the faces and excitement of the students when they take the field at the Buckeye Invitational. Lastly, looking at the permanent smiles

NORTH CAROLINA

Name: Rodney K. Workman
School: Central Davidson Middle School
City, State: Lexington, NC
Total years teaching: 10
Years at this school: 7
Number of students in instrumental music program: 296



What is your proudest moment as an educator?

Our eighth grade band presented a clinic at our North Carolina Music Educator's Convention a few years ago with Paula Crider. The effort the students put into preparing the music we performed and the materials for the clinic was very impressive to me throughout that semester. When I sat down in the audience and watched how they interacted with her, I was struck by how independent and expressive many of the students were with her. To watch my students be successful on a stage without me was definitely a proud moment for me as a teacher.

How do you hope to make a difference in students' lives?

NORTH DAKOTA

Name: Sue Jordahl
School: West Fargo High School
City, State: West Fargo, ND
Total years teaching: 34 years
Years at this school: 20
Number of students in instrumental music program: 90 Band students



What is your proudest moment as an educator?

Whenever my students volunteer their time and energy to play for people. Veteran's Day Program, Pep Band, Jazz groups, Summer Community Band. They take their time, outside of school, to play their instruments because they can!

How do you hope to make a difference in students' lives?

I hope my students have a real love for making music. I hope they continue to play for the rest of their lives - community bands, college bands, family gatherings, church functions as just a few examples.

What is the most important lesson that you try to teach your students?

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