

The Vault

Colorado State University's Middle School Outreach Ensemble

EDITOR, HOLLIE BENNETT



Junior Molina, an alumni of the MSOE program, conducting the ensemble back in 2014. He is currently teaching music in Fowler. Where will you be in six years?!

Miscellaneous Gratitude

Sarah Tapia, Social Justice Coordinator, Band Conductor & Saxophone Teaching Artist

As college students, we can understand the importance and benefits of living a grateful life. However, I have come to realize that developing this understanding with the middle school students is going to be more difficult than I thought! During our last saxophone sectional, when answering the attendance question “why is it important to be grateful?”, almost all of our students said “because no one will like you”. While this is valid, my goal is to get the kids to be grateful for themselves! I can attest, from personal experience, that finding gratitude in anything and everything makes the difficult times in life easier to get through. Even if it may not seem like it at the time, if we can at least recognize future benefits to any situation, we will be more content with life. That is my goal. I want these kids to want to be grateful because it makes living life far more fun and happy!

Any ideas on how we can do this? Let me know!

Contributors:

Sarah Tapia

Megan Doyle

Ryleigh Lynch

Cam the Ram!

Guest teachers:

Mrs. Smith

Mrs. Dowling

Ms. Hollenbeck

Mr. Poelking

Mr. Herman

JOIN THE CONVERSATION NEXT WEEK!

SIGN UP!

[Click here](#)

Trying on Teaching Spotlight: Ryleigh Lynch

My name is Ryleigh Lynch and I am a freshman at Loveland High. I start having a passion of music during 7th grade. My middle school band teacher let me and some other flutists play with the 8th grade band. The music was much harder and I was terrified, but I ended up loving practicing the harder music. It gave me a goal for myself as a musician. Ever since, I have loved music in all forms. I started bringing home my instrument everyday and practicing random things I could find off my phone. I love the MSOE program because it gives middle schoolers that harder challenge that they are looking for. I hope to spread the love of music throughout the students here that have so much love for their instruments.

Be Our Guest! *This week's guest teachers*



Theresa Smith is the instrumental music teacher at Skinner Middle School in Denver Public Schools where she currently has the pleasure of teaching band and orchestra for grades 6-8. Throughout her 12 years of teaching she has also taught percussion ensemble, mariachi, Piano, AP

Music Theory and choir at the high school level. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Eastern Michigan University and a Master of Music Education degree from the University of Colorado Boulder. She has had the privilege of presenting at the Colorado Music Educators Association Conference twice, and was also recently honored to receive the Skinner Teacher of the Year Award for the 2018-2019 school year. This year, she is excited to have the opportunity to work

with students from across DPS as a conductor for the Denver Citywide Honor Band. Outside of teaching, Theresa enjoys camping, hiking, and spending time with her husband and daughter, Sage.



Courtney Dowling is in her sixth year of teaching orchestra, all of which she has been fortunate enough to spend at Rocky Mountain Highschool. Courtney's undergraduate degree is from CUNY Queens College's Aaron Copland School of Music in cello performance where she studied under Marcy Rosen. Her master's degree is in music education from University of Northern Colorado. Courtney has been a guest clinician, adjudicator, and conductor throughout the state. She also teaches at Camp Con Brio in the summer. Her school orchestras have been selected to perform at both state level and national festivals – last year at the ASTA National Orchestra Festival and ASTA State Festival – this year at CMEA! In her time outside of teaching, Courtney enjoys playing chamber music with friends, performing with the Longmont Symphony, mountain biking, snowboarding, and generally anything outdoors. Courtney currently lives in Longmont with her husband and best adventure partner, Casey.

CAM'S CORNER

Hi Cam!

What is this Carnival thing?

How do I participate? Sincerely, Wait What?!

Dear "Wait What?!,"

First, the purpose of the carnival is to give you space to teach something fun and new and to give students a space to learn something new and fun!

Find some friends, brainstorm an idea, and then get in contact with Sydney Bouwens! Good luck, Cam!

Have a question?? [Submit it to Cam the Ram.](#)



Thanks for visiting!

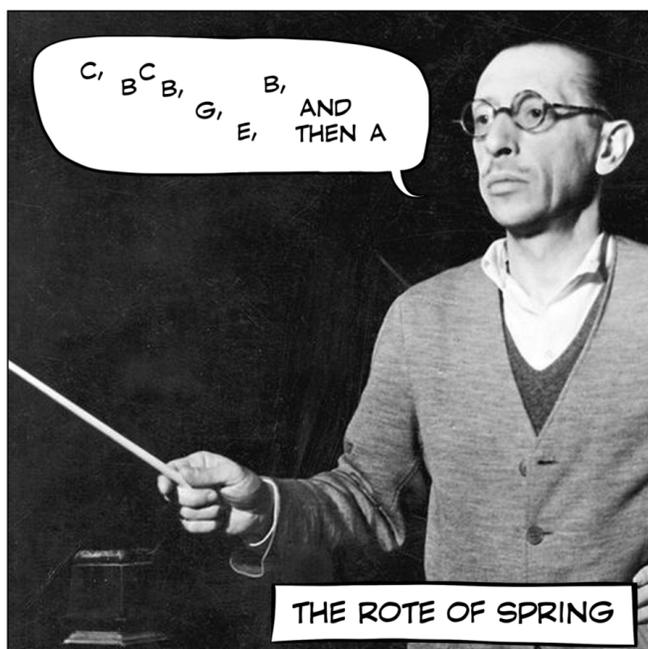
Last week's guest teachers



Andrea Hollenbeck is in her 21st year of teaching band and has been teaching at Preston Middle School since 2004. Andrea earned a Master's of Music in Education degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Alabama.

Andrea continually works on optimizing happiness, being the best mom she can be by being an independent thinker and surrounding herself with people that make her a better person, keeping her body and mind strong, and taking risks. She excels at living in the present moment, being vulnerable, being genuine, open, and loving unconditionally. She spends her time writing poetry, her beloved and sacred book club, hiking and yoga. Her poetry was published in a magazine in the United Kingdom. Andrea currently resides in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Andrea serves as the Director for Poudre School District Solo and Ensemble, and coaches track and has coached football. Under Ms. Hollenbeck's direction, her bands



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have earned Superior ratings at band festivals including Nordic Festival and Colorado Bandmasters Association Festivals. Preston Symphonic Band performed at Colorado Music Educator's State Conference in 2020, 2017 and 2013 and was a clinician in 2012 and will be in 2020. She proudly plays clarinet in the Fort Collins Wind Symphony. Andrea is currently serving as the Northern Representative for Northern Colorado. Ms. Hollenbeck was a clinician in 2008 at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Conference. She was featured in the 2019 edition of SBO magazine. Andrea's article on "Composition in the Classroom" was published in The Instrumentalist 2009 October edition. She earned a trip to Calgary, Canada for a week of SMART professional development in 2014. She was the Rotary Club Teacher of the Month in 2013. Her professional affiliations include CBA and NAFME. She has conducted a number of different honor bands throughout Colorado. Andrea previously taught elementary, middle and high school in the Chicago area and in Alabama.



Kevin Poelking is a Fort Collins based composer, conductor, and educator.

With a growing number of premieres in the United States and Europe, Kevin Poelking is an emerging American composer. His music has been performed by the Dallas Winds, multiple European groups, and ensembles at major American universities including Colorado

State University, The University of Southern Mississippi, and Emory University in Atlanta. He is a regularly commissioned composer in his home state of Colorado and beyond.

Poelking is an accomplished conductor. He has conducted and rehearsed opera, symphony orchestras, chamber ensembles, and wind bands, including the United States Army Band "Pershing's Own."

Poelking studied percussion and music education at the University of South Carolina before obtaining a Master of Music in Wind Conducting with Dr. Rebecca Phillips while studying with award-winning composer Dr. James M. David.



Aaron Herman is a current master's of conducting and graduate teaching assistant at Colorado State University. He attended Furman University for his undergraduate in music education and previously taught in South Carolina for several years.

Reaching for student impact *instead of worrying about yourself*

Megan Doyle, Flute Teaching Artist

One of my personal goals for this MSOE season has been to delve into developing my teacher identity. I have been teaching kids for the past few years in a variety of settings in the roles of a camp counselor, youth group leader and private lesson teacher; however, most of these settings have been quite informal. It was through these settings that I decided I wanted to teach in the first place. I loved developing relationships with these kids while also teaching them new material and facilitating group discussion around subjects that I was passionate about.

When I came to college and began studying the technical side of teaching I became extremely focused on how my voice sounded and wondering if my students liked me when taught a lesson. Though remaining professional and being aware of how you act while teaching is not a bad thing at all, these focal points began to take away from key parts of teaching such as the actual content, but most importantly, the students themselves.

Since deciding to just be myself in front of my MSOE students, I feel that I have been able to teach better overall. I can focus on what the students need and the progress they are making musically instead

of what they think of me. I think my teaching has actually improved when I decided to let go, which feels counterintuitive. Some students may find my silly comments annoying or weird, but I have decided that is alright with me. I encourage everyone to take time to think about what they are focused on while they teach. Are you concerned with your progress as a teacher or your students as artists?

The Most Flipgrid Posts



Natalie Morris

35 posts



Hollie Bennett

32 posts



Katie St. Gemme-Pate

24 posts

Who's got streaks?



Amber Sheeran

Markus Fagerberg

Natalie Morris



Sydney Bouwens



Sydney Brown