

The Vault

MSOE Weekly Newsletter

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Check-ins and Challenges

Most people would probably agree that the 2020-2021 academic year has been more stressful and chaotic than we probably would have liked. I log into Zoom classes in the morning, go to work after that, and complete assignments somewhere in between. Whenever someone asks, "how are you?" my immediate response is, "I'm fine. How are you?" One day, I called my mom to wish her a happy birthday, and she said, "So how are you really?" and I realized that my answer was "I actually don't know." This moment made me think about my MSOE students, and I wondered if they were checking in with their own emotions. Social-emotional development and health are essential in these unusual times, and I wanted to find a fun way to check in with my students' emotional health every week, and I think I found one....mood-meter check-ins!

GIFS are all over the internet and can be short, straightforward ways to express your mood or feelings. Each week, the Horn Harbingers of Harmony students choose between 6 and 20 GIFS that express various emotions and moods. We begin a lesson by picking a GIF representing our emotional state and sharing a little bit about why we chose a specific emotion. In the hope of increasing student interest and engagement, each week has a theme. Disney movies, Inside Out characters, puppies, SpongeBob SquarePants, and of course, Powerpuff Girls have all been themes for the mood meter check-ins. Growing as musicians and keeping music alive are important aspects of MSOE. Learning new rhythms, new pieces like Rocky Mountain High, new musical skills such as improvisation, and all of the musical growth in MSOE are important and should not be taken for granted. I would argue, though, that our students' social-emotional development is equally, if not more important. Mood meter check-ins are just one small way that I hope to support our students during MSOE.

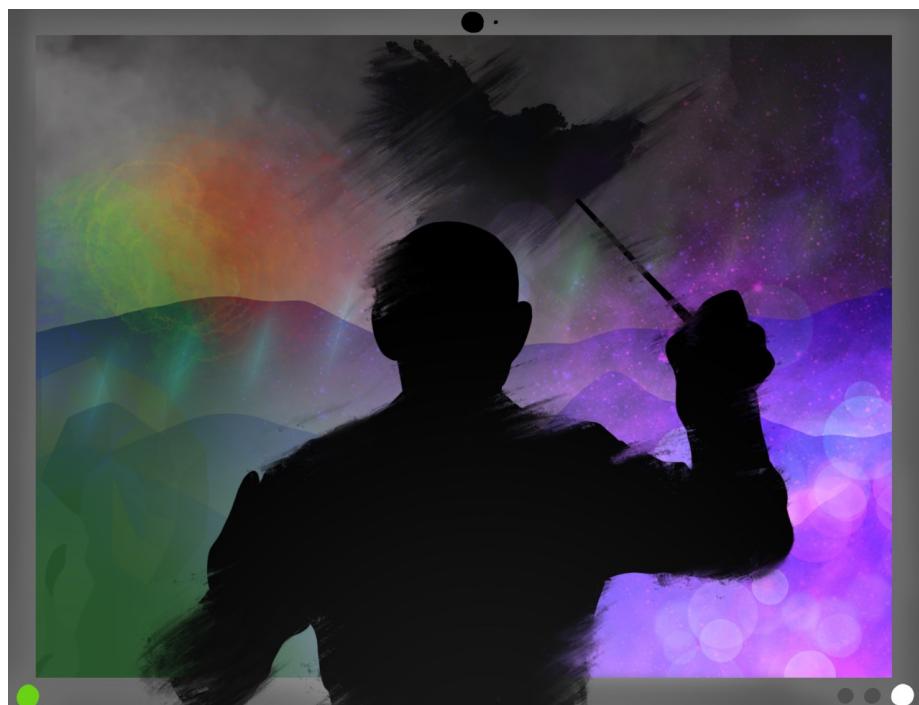
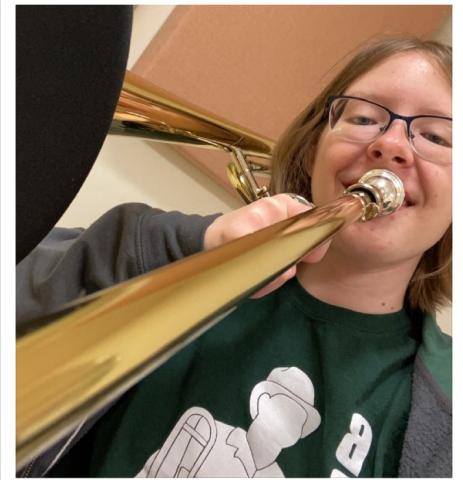
- Zoe Zanoff, Horn Teaching Artist



Jumping in to the MSOE Community

When MSOE first came into my life, I was very conflicted about even applying. The stress of setting up and teaching online rehearsals was something that scared me. I am a brand new teacher still finding my teaching persona and still trying to see exactly where I can fit in. I decided to jump in head first into the world of MSOE, and I am so glad that I did. I believe that one of the most important things in a music classroom is connection. Connections between participants must happen everywhere for the program to feel like a community. This includes connections between students, between students and teachers, and between students and the music they study. Going into the first night of MSOE, I thought that teaching through a screen would not give me any chance to properly connect with my students, and they wouldn't even be able to connect with each other. Boy was I wrong. We are approaching week nine and my students are becoming friends and helping each other improve on their music. The fact that MSOE has given the opportunity to connect students from all different places through a screen and through the music they create together, reminds me exactly why I am pursuing the magic of music education. I drew this drawing (below) so that I can remember just how much MSOE—my first teaching experience—means to me.

- Brenna Hudson, Trombone Teaching Artist



Be Our Guests: Meet Our Week 9 Master Teachers!

Pattie Nelson is recently retired from Jefferson County Schools. During her 30 plus year teaching career she taught all levels of orchestra and band students spending most of her tenure as an elementary string specialist. Her most influential time was in the Arvada West and Ralston Valley area of Jefferson County where her beginning groups were 150 kids, and the retention rate was 85 percent. She began her own music studies on violin and added trombone skills when she started high school. She attended the University of Colorado for her bachelor and master's degree in Music Education. Her expertise in orchestra and her experience with band formed the broad base for her successful teaching career. She continues to follow her music teaching passion by directing the Jeffco Community Band since 1984 and establishing a Jeffco Summer Orchestra in 2012. During the pandemic she has learned how to engage the adult members virtually and socially distanced so her groups could continue to enjoy music making.



Kyle Freesen is the Director of Bands and Music Department Chair at Loveland High School in Loveland, Colorado. At LHS he teaches the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, the Crimson Regiment Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble I, and Chamber Ensembles. He earned a Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education from Western Illinois University and a Master of Music Degree in Wind Conducting from Wright State University. Freesen has a reputation for leading his students to excellence. In 2015 and 2018, the LHS Wind Symphony performed at CMEA State Conference. Since his appointment, the Crimson Regiment Marching Band placed in the top 3 in CBA State Marching Finals every year and

has been Regional Class Champions twice at the BOA St. George (UT) Regional. Jazz Ensemble I has earned top ratings at the UNC Jazz Festival. The LHS Wind Symphony earned numerous *Superior with Distinction* ratings at CBA State Concert Band Festival. Mr. Freesen has a passion for the marching arts and serves as a brass assistant for the Battalion Drum Corps (UT). He has presented at the OMEA and IMEA State Conventions as well as been a guest speaker at the University of Northern Colorado, Colorado State University, Colorado Mesa University, and Wright State University. He is recognized as a Conn-Selmer VIP Educator. Mr. Freesen is a member of the Phi Beta Mu, National Association for Music Education, Golden Key, Phi Kappa Phi, National Band Association, and the Colorado Bandmasters Association.

Be Our Guests (continued)

Ingrid Larragoity-Martin is the Director of Bands for the Visual & Performing Arts Academy at Skyline High School in Longmont, Colorado. Dr. LM, as her students affectionately call her, directs the Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Pep Band. Dr. LM received a Bachelor of Music Education Degree from the University of South Florida and a double Master Degree in Music Education and Instrumental Conducting, also from the University of South Florida. After teaching high school band and orchestra in South Florida for ten years, Dr. LM decided to pursue her doctoral degree in Instrumental Conducting at the University of Colorado at Boulder, under distinguished Professor Allan McMurray. Most recently, Dr. LM has served as Associate Director of Bands and Music Education Coordinator at Henderson State University as well as Associate Director of Bands and Interim Director of Bands at New Mexico State University. She has initiated programs with New World Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, and Colorado Symphony, connecting her ensembles to professional musicians and experiences. Dr. LM continues to keep an active guest conductor, adjudicator, and clinician schedule with concert bands, marching bands, and orchestras. Dr. LM has conducted across the United States, as well as throughout Europe, Mexico, and China. An integral aspect of her work comes from her work as Advisory Board Member with CARES Mentoring Movement, a nonprofit organization that delivers socio-emotional and career readiness mentoring to underserved and underrepresented students.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Music is like an experience for me. I get to be close with it, like a friend or a sibling."

- Lifko Cuyul, Trombone Student

PROPS BOX!

"The horn section is making great progress on their work with new rhythms!" - Zoe

"I wanted to give props to every single person involved in MSOE! Even through Zoom and the online platform, it takes a village to do what we have done. Everyone reading this should be proud of their involvement in MSOE and the fact that we have made it to the last week. I could not be more thankful for everyone helping to make my first teaching experience a joyride that I will remember for the rest of my life! GO MSOE!" - Brenna

Sharing Music and Keeping it Alive



In MSOE thus far, I have experienced a wonderful progression with my students, as they became comfortable interacting with each other and with sharing their musical tastes! From Star Wars to classic jazz, we all were able to add some new gems to our playlists. Beyond the playlists, the students challenged each other through discussion to reflect on what it is that inspires them musically and how they have stayed motivated toward school in general, especially through the trials of going virtual. The transition to virtual learning in MSOE, however, has provided students with incredible and unique opportunities to not only interact with each other and share music they love, they are doing so from opposite sides of the state (who ever thought we would be able to play music together from four different regions across Colorado?! So cool!!). As we continue to dive

deeper into how to keep our musical passions alive, students will be able to make any last-minute adjustments to their playlists and continue to share their musical tastes with each other. With MSOE wrapping up in the next few weeks, I will continue to discover plans of action with students as to how we can all keep music alive in our lives and our communities, far beyond MSOE.

- **Brant Shettron, Percussion Teaching Artist**

MSOE in Action!



The Horn Harbingers of Harmony work together on clapping rhythms!

FROM THE EDITOR: LAST WEEK OF LEARNING

This week is the last week of learning for MSOE, but thankfully it isn't the last time we'll get to see our students! We still have the **MSOE Carnival** on April 3rd and the **MSOE Program Showcase** on April 7th to look forward to! Our Carnival Team and Undergraduate Program Directors have been working hard to organize some amazing celebrations for us, and our teaching artists have been supplying the music and material to make it happen. We can't wait to see this final product and enjoy all we have accomplished this year! I hope everyone took a moment to celebrate all that we've done to Keep Music Alive with our MSOE students this year. It's because of all of our hard work that we have accomplished so much!

- **Maddy Cort, MSOE Assistant Program Director, "The Vault" Editor**

