

THE VAULT



The official newsletter of
MSOE 2022

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Assistant Director Joshua Greiner leads the Orchestra.

MUSIC LIVES AND THRIVES!

BEN LANDFAIR, AGGIE BAND TEACHING ARTIST



Our middle school students have officially gone through the first trimester of MSOE curriculum, which focused on the concept of performing with others. Along with the curriculum, students also focused on the Social Justice Theme, "What Does Music Mean to Me?"

As MSOE enters the second trimester of its program, we teachers are reminded that music not only lives, but thrives. I feel that as we move further along, we have already started to see spectacular outcomes from these young musicians. So, before continuing, I would like to take a moment and thank our wonderful participating students for their enthusiasm and dedication to music. I would also like to thank their parents or guardians for supporting them in their endeavors. We couldn't do MSOE without either of them and the spectacular community that they have helped create.

As a teaching artist for the Aggie Band, I feel invigorated by the amazing students I get to work with every week. I've only had the pleasure of working closely with six phenomenal young musicians. Yet, they never seem to disappoint with the energy they bring. These students have reignited my passion for music, reminding me why I have pursued the path of music education. I look forward to the future of seeing young passionate musicians with a gleam of desire in their eyes and a desire to thrive in the world of music. This past week, our students had a mission to bring us music that was meaningful to them. I was fortunate enough to have a group who opened my eyes once again to music by showing me music I hadn't heard in many years, along with awesome music I'd never heard before. Since our last meeting, I have delved deeper into my own musical library: expanding it to new genres, artists, and ensembles all because these young minds honestly had better music taste than myself. These students have expanded my world to new heights and I have seen them grow in such a short amount of time. I will count my lucky stars as we continue to thrive.



The Ram Band low brass section warms up with some scales.



Percussion students count measures while they stand at the ready to play.

MSOE BROUGHT ME BACK TO TEACHING

BRENNA HUDSON, AGGIE BAND TEACHING ARTIST



When I think about the MSOE, I think about growth. The middle school musicians grow and get better at their instruments, the teachers learn valuable information about how to run a class, sectional or ensemble, and because everyone is giving and receiving feedback, everyone is growing. But for me, this specific growth is more personal, more important. The pandemic took a lot of my motivation away for everything, including teaching.

Last year, my first year at CSU, I would step into my dorm at the end of the day with tears in my eyes, my mind clouded with doubt. "What if music teaching isn't for me?" I would ask myself. All I wanted in 2020-2021 was to teach MSOE in person, but instead, the program had to adapt. One of those adaptations included using Zoom to teach MSOE. I am so glad we did. We kept music alive last year with MSOE!

While we were in Zoom sectionals, the students seemed to forget about the challenges we were all facing. This was a chance for them to take a break from those challenges and make connections, show off their skills on their instruments, and share laughs with each other. Being the uptight first-time teacher I was, the first few weeks of my teaching were all about content. However, while I was teaching one night, I could tell my students were bored. It is always our goal as teachers to cultivate fun in the musical content we teach and I needed to take action. I remember distinctly the moment I fell in love with teaching again: making trombone-motorcycle noises with my students online, and it was all thanks to MSOE.

Now, fast forward. We are in 2022 with a whole new group of middle school students. These students are some of the most motivated kids I have ever seen. Despite everything they have been through, they have persevered and want to grow as musicians. These students are already sounding wonderful and I'm excited for the future! I am so glad MSOE made me feel like teaching is where I belong, because now I feel at home in the MSOE 2022 program. I sincerely cannot wait to see and hear how much these students improve these next few months, and I am excited to see how many fun memories we will make!

Thanks for reading! GO MSOE!



Kathryn Kennedy and Dr. Erik Johnson work with students during full ensemble rehearsal.



Orchestra students concentrate while learning about one of their pieces, *Enduring the Storm*.



Assistant Director Josh Greiner demonstrates how to play achieve a particular bowing technique on his violin.



A MSOE student plays bass drum under the direction of Maya Reno.

MEET OUR MASTER TEACHERS!



John Hermanson has been the Director of Orchestras at Fort Collins High School for 9 years and is in his 16th year of teaching. His program consists of four orchestras auditioned by level and Pit Orchestra. In addition, he teaches AP Music Theory, and Unified Music.

Mr. Hermanson's ensembles consistently receive superior ratings at state festivals and have a long history of invitations to perform at state festivals, national festivals, and abroad. In March of 2020, the FCHS Symphony Orchestra was one of 7 orchestras in the country invited to perform at the Music for All Festival in Indianapolis, IN. In March of 2018 the FCHS Music Department toured Australia with 215 people, performing in Sydney and Brisbane. In January of 2016 and 2018 the FCHS Symphony Orchestra and Tower Orchestra performed at the CMEA. In March of 2015 the FCHS Music Department toured Europe, performing in Salzburg, Vienna, and Prague. Many students audition and are accepted to Colorado All State Orchestra and the Western States Honor Orchestra Festival on an annual basis. Creating the best possible orchestra experience for students is Mr. Hermanson's highest priority.

Originally from Rapid City, SD, Mr. Hermanson moved to Colorado in 2001. He holds a Bachelor of Music Education, a Bachelor of Music Performance, a Master of Conducting, and a Master of Education degree, all from Colorado State University. Mr. Hermanson is immediate past chair of Colorado All State Orchestra and Chair of the Colorado ASTA Large Group Orchestra Festival. He has served on the CMEA Instrumental Music Council and many other education committees. Prior to FCHS, Mr. Hermanson taught at Summit High School and Conifer High School. He resides in Fort Collins with his wife, Anna.

Amy Martinson: I have taught urban music education for 21 years in the Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Boulder, and Denver Public School Systems. I taught both general music and middle school, band and orchestra. For the past 7 years I have been in administration as the Music Instructional Curriculum Specialist for Denver Public Schools which I am responsible for setting the music education vision for teachers and students, writing curriculum and assessments, coaching teachers instructionally, and designing all music education professional development.

Before my career as a music educator I was a music therapist in the Milwaukee school system where part of my job was to adapt music, instruction, and instruments for middle school and high school band/orchestra students with special needs. My training as a therapist ingrained in me a philosophy of music for ALL students, and inclusion for everyone in music classes.

I can't think of a better job than teaching and making music with people all day either students or adults and I am here to support you in your journey of music education.



Hollie Ryckman is currently the instrumental music teacher at Abraham Lincoln High School in Denver Public Schools where she teaches guitar, modern band, band, orchestra, and music production. She received her masters in Music Education with a conducting emphasis from Colorado State University and her Bachelor's in Music Education from the University of Colorado at Boulder. (Go Buffarams!)

Mrs. Ryckman strongly supports equity and accessibility for all students. She currently serves as a Regional Team Specialist, facilitating professional development for secondary music teachers and writing curriculum with Denver Public Schools. She is also a member of the SIOP (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol) Leadership Improvement Team and Collaborative School Committee at ALHS. She is a certified Transitional Native Language Instructor and a Concurrent Enrollment Instructor with Community College of Denver. In her free time, Mrs. Ryckman enjoys being outdoors, traveling, and spending time with her husband and their dog.



Letter from the Editor

KRISTEN FALLS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

I am so proud of what our middle-schoolers have accomplished so far. I am so grateful to be able to watch and listen to their progress each week. I have also seen our Teaching Artists and Conductors hungry for feedback and so ready and willing to grow in their teaching practice. I have been so amazed by their hard work and adaptability--I can't wait to see how their growth over the coming weeks!