

Volume 5, Number 1

ON THE UPBEAT

Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators' Council

<http://music.mysdhc.org/elem-music>

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Good News
from the HCEMEC

Hillsborough County Public Schools

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WELCOME BACK



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome back to another year of working with our amazing student musicians! My name is Tausha Honey and I am President of the Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators Council (HCEMEC) for the 2013-2014 school year. We start this school year with a great honor...Hillsborough County was named 1 of 307 "Best Communities for Music Education" through the NAMM Best Communities for Music Education Program!

I'm looking forward to another year at Hunter's Green Elementary and I hope that, together, we can help spread that excitement and enthusiasm as we open our doors to students

once again!

This summer we offered several professional development opportunities for our teachers to learn, grow and take back to their classrooms in the fall! Trainings included were: Conversational Solfege I and II, New England Folk Dancing, SMART Board for the Music Classroom, Using Orff and Recorders to Enhance Understanding, Got Sound? (Sound System Training), and H.O.T. Questioning Techniques. Thank you to all the wonderful presenters for your informative trainings!

Professional Study Day took place on August 14th and was packed with information! This year we had a wonderful variety of workshops and presentations available to us. We learned ways to incorporate cultural dance into our classrooms; we were given many classroom management strategies from teachers at different schools throughout our district; we learned how to make Pinterest work for us in our classroom; we worked together to pull apart Domain 3 of the EET rubric; we were updated on curriculum updates, including information on Common Core State Standards; and we had the opportunity to hear what it takes to obtain grant money for our classrooms! Again, thank you to all the presenters for your informative and educational trainings!



Above, teachers learn the "Culture Dance" and the USF iPad Ensemble "Touch", top, perform at Professional Study Day.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

⊕ Continued from page 1 ⊕

On top of these great trainings, I am pleased to announce that we had a total of 125 teachers join our membership, just at Professional Study Day! (You can still pay your dues if you want to become a member...just send your \$15 to Jennifer LeBlanc at Chiles Elementary, Route 3. Checks made payable to "Music Council") Now, for the best part...the music council will be awarding \$4,000 in grants!! You can apply for a grant (to go towards Professional Development or Instruments and Materials) of up to \$1,000. This is the best way to see your membership dues come back to help you! Get ready to go shopping and apply for a grant! What do YOU need this year? Apply for a grant!

Our new two-year-plan was revealed at Professional Study Day as well! For the next two years our Music Council will focus on two points of interest for our members. First, we are looking into more Professional Development opportunities for our music teachers to continue improving instruction in their classrooms. Second, we are excited to begin coordinating more Community Festival style performances for our students to perform! We have SO much talent in this district and we look forward to showcasing that talent throughout the community more and more in the next two years!

It's going to be a great year for music education! Our yearly events: Fine Arts Festival, Fine Arts Banquet, Young Songwriters Symposium, Multicultural Festival, and FMEA Convention are going to continue to prove why Hillsborough County is on the list of Best Communities for Music Education! Our elementary Music PLC Project is going into its fourth year and has proven to be a successful endeavor and resource for our teachers. Start thinking now about who you would like to nominate for our awards to be given out at our annual Fine Arts Banquet: Music Educator of the Year, Rising Star of the Year, and Principal of the Year. We all know people that are more than deserving of these awards - keep your eyes peeled for those nomination forms later this year!

I look forward to seeing everyone at all of these exciting events. Have a great year!

♪ Tausha Honey, Hunter's Green Elementary, HCMEEC President

ADVOCACY ALERT

Included in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization bill, NAFME states that,

"In this (ESEA) proposal the arts are, once again, listed as core academic subjects of learning."

*From FMEA Music Director, "Challenge or Opportunity"
Kathleen D. Sanz, Ph.D. Executive Director August 2013*



WE ARE COMMON CORE

FINE ARTS AND THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

This summer, Fine Arts teachers from across our district had the opportunity to attend a “Fine Arts and the Common Core State Standards” training. During this training participants received an orientation where they were introduced to the common core state standards, discovered the “compelling why” behind them, and were shown the alignment between the standards and the Arts. In addition, a “Deepening” component was added where participants and trainers worked together to understand the meaning of Close Reading as it pertained to the text used in Fine Arts classrooms.

A big focus of our training was on the use of the word “text”. We had to think of how “text” would apply to our discipline. For us as Fine Arts teachers, our text could be a song, a masterwork, a poem, a dramatic scene in a musical, a sculpture or a lyrical ballet. Once we established what our “text” was, we discussed ways in which a close read would allow a student to form a deeper understanding of the objective that was presented.

In summary, we all speak a common language; no matter what the discipline. Our students will have the opportunity to analyze text using the same techniques they are using in the Language Arts and Math classrooms. We are excited to share our strengths as teachers of text, structure, fluency, tools and precision.

Tracy Lisi, Morgan Woods Elementary

*The Common Core “Orientation” and “Deepening” trainings will be offered again in the Fall for those teachers who did not have the opportunity to attend this Summer.
Be on the lookout for the “Applying” training coming soon!*

Paul Gansemer, former music specialist and current Principal of Orange Grove Middle Magnet School of the Arts, addresses elementary music specialists at Professional Study Day while accepting the HCEMEC “Encore Award” presented to Orange Grove for their support of elementary music education.



JOIN HCEMEC!

Our mission is to provide greater opportunities for quality music education to the children of Hillsborough County through high professional standards, continuing teacher education and supporting a strong music community as advocates for lifelong music education.

Annual dues are \$15 per member. Checks should be made out to “Music Council” and mailed via school mail to: Jennifer Leblanc, Chiles Elementary, Route #3

SUMMER MUSIC INSTITUTE

Each summer, Music Specialists from across the county convene for intense, music focused professional development. From Folk Dancing and HOT Questions to Sound Technology and SMART Board Technology, a myriad of opportunities are available to those who wish to improve themselves professionally. A few of the many workshops are chronicled here. Check out the next issue of *On The UpBeat* for more information from the Summer Music Institute.



Learning the knobs of a sound board,

creating lessons for the SMART Board,

and New England Folk Dancing is explored.

GETTING SMART WITH TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

It was a warm summer morning July 25th, 2013 when we all gathered at Bailey Elementary in the music room. A full class of elementary music specialists, and me a music peer evaluator, were all eagerly awaiting more training and information about Smart Board technology in the classroom. The class was led by Cork Elementary music specialist Jennifer Edelblute, a Smart Board aficionado in the classroom as well as Valerie Smith, Essrig Elementary, and Cliff Fouts, Deer Park Elementary. All of us got in our last sips of coffee and settled into our seats, as multiple Smart Board stations called us to come and use them.

We were all asked to grab a colored stick representing our level of comfort and knowledge with Smart Boards. Most of the class was in the green group with me, green being the group with the least amount of experience with the technology. After detailed instructions about our assignments for creating a Smart Board lesson from pre-set instructions, the groups set out to put their lessons together. All of us had to complete tasks in getting the lesson up and running, and we were all responsible for the completed lesson, learning valuable tips along the way. A connection to the technology was made by diving into a set of instructions and working hands on with the Smart Board, and forging a completed lesson that all of the class would see in a gallery walk where we could check out how all of the groups had done with the various music lessons. My particular lesson was on dynamics, and we created a lesson for the Smart Board that would allow students to move and manipulate the different dynamic terms to connect with them more easily and visually. There were lessons on instruments, tempo, genre and more.

At the end of the day, I had a greater knowledge of the Smart Board and its ability to enhance engagement in the classroom, by providing students a chance to manipulate items in a lesson, and take ownership of the learning. We were all excited about the lesson possibilities and creative ways for using this technology in the classroom. Those participants who already had Smart Boards or similar technology were excited about utilizing it more, while those who did not have the technology available were mulling over ways to get it into their classroom. We all left the class with a flash drive with lesson instruction templates on it to use in the classroom, a nice parting gift from the trainers.

As a peer evaluator I get to see hundreds of lessons, and get to see the use of technology in the classroom on a daily basis. It was great to be at this training with all of these great music specialists and learn along side them, and have our knowledge of Smart Board technology enhanced by a great group of trainers.

NEW ENGLAND FOLK DANCING

Do you know how to “allemande right, skip back to partner, left hand star, and do-si-do”? Well, the teachers who were able to join us for the Summer Folk Dancing Seminar all know these unique terms and steps!

Folk Dancing is a great way to build a sense of community within our classroom, as a faculty, and even with the entire school family (parents included!). Folk Dance Clinician, Mr. John King, shared a wealth of information about various dances and their history and importance in our society.

There are many popular dances and styles like the Virginia Reel, Lucky Seven, Black Joke, Contra dances, and other line dances.... We tried them all! Students will enjoy the simple ones, the mixers, and the dances with very complex steps. Mr. King broke down all of the steps so that all of the dancers would be successful.

Hosting a school wide “Community Dance” involves all students and their parents to come enjoy an evening of social dances, while the students many times are the experts. This social event builds a great rapport, family/school connections, and makes for a very joyful event.

After a very informative and fun afternoon with Folk Dancing with Mr. King, all teachers will be successful implementing folk dancing into our music education curriculum. We’ve got the steps, now it’s time to dance.

Ernesta Chicklowski, Roosevelt Elementary

HIGHER ORDER THINKING IN MUSIC THROUGH QUALITY QUESTIONING

On July 23, I attended a training entitled "Higher Order Thinking in MUSIC Through Quality Questioning." This workshop took place at Bailey Elementary. Arlene Haack and Michelle Robellard did a fantastic job of presenting the characteristics of quality questions, and gave us practical ways to plan effective HOT questions into our lesson planning. In this training, we focused on Webb’s Depth of Knowledge questions and Bloom’s Taxonomy.

The big idea that I took away from this training is that higher order questions have to be planned ahead...otherwise, they may or may not occur in the natural flow of the lesson. By planning ahead, I have identified the desired result of the lesson and what will constitute evidence of student learning. Through this training and the resources that were provided, I feel more confident in my ability to effectively inject higher order thinking questions into my lessons in order to move my students forward into a deeper understanding of music.

Deon Nelson, Pride Elementary

GOT SOUND?

This summer, I was fortunate enough to attend “Got Sound?” on July 29th with Jeff Henson and Dann Shea. I wondered how Dann and Jeff were going to teach us all the information in their hand out in three hours, but guess what? They really brought the heat! The air was off when we arrived, but that didn’t affect their teaching at all. Dann and Jeff were very adept at explaining audio engineering basics and answering the multitude of questions that were thrown their way.

This training cranked up my knowledge on the sound equipment necessary to run successful concerts. We started with an overview of cables and proceeded to work our way down a mixer one button or knob at a time. Dann and Jeff brought in multiple mixers to explain minor differences between models. This was incredibly helpful. One highlight was the explanation of feedback, how to isolate it and make adjustments using the mixer. I also enjoyed learning how to adjust monitors and individual channels separately from the main or house speakers. This is highly useful when the ensemble needs to hear something up on the stage at a different volume level from the audience.

I’m looking forward to experimenting with my school’s audio equipment set up this upcoming school year. This is something that often can make or break concerts for parents who are not able to get seats up close to the stage. Thanks to Dann and Jeff, I now feel confident in my ability to give the special concert experience that every student and their families deserve!

Ben Vyborny, Doby Elementary

HCEMEC : JUST ASK! MINI-GRANTS :

Yes, sometimes, it is that simple.

My name is Steven Florio, and I am the Music Specialist at Grady Elementary School, and these are the words I now cherish. On her first visit to my classroom, Melanie Faulkner had one question for me. "Where are all of your instruments?" She was not impressed with my reasons, most of which were out of my control. Her solution? Those two little words, "Just ask."

Last spring I did just that. I asked. I wrote a grant to acquire five small World Drumming tubanos to begin the World Drumming curriculum in my classes. This would give me a grand total of eight tubanos/djembes for my program. The Executive Board of HCEMEC awarded me the full grant, in the effort to purchase those tubanos.

Word of the grant reached the president of my PTA, which has had a rejuvenation in the last few years. When she congratulated me, I thanked her, then thought for a moment, "just ask." So I did.

I asked if the PTA could match the generous grant from HCEMEC. She only answered with a smile and instructions to put it down on paper. Over the summer the PTA held a planning meeting. They decided to not only match the grant, but to fund the remainder of the ensemble!

All in part, because I asked.

All of the drums were ordered during the first week of school. The Grady students and I are anxiously awaiting their arrival. Until they arrive, we will be very liberally sharing the three drums we currently have to learn all about bass, tone, and slap stroke types.

I am thoroughly excited to teach my students new techniques, and to teach them about new genres of music, all with a tangible experience. My students will soon be a part of creating music in a way that was not previously available to them. All in part, because I asked.

Thank you, HCEMEC!

♪ Steven Florio, HCEMEC Technology Co-chair, Grady Elementary

TRAPNELL STUDENTS EAGERLY
ANTICIPATE THE ARRIVAL
OF THEIR NEW XYLOPHONES



A huge thank you to the Music Council for supplying, with a mini-grant, the money needed to purchase some new Orff instruments for Trapnell Elementary. Previously our Orff collection was quite sad. There were no "working" soprano xylophones and only one alto and one bass. The students are going to be so excited with the addition of two *new* soprano xylophones. We are working diligently to build our instrument collection. With prices extremely high and budget cuts affecting us all, this purchase would not have happened without the help of the Music Council. We cannot wait to start learning and enriching our musical experience here at Trapnell.

♪ Lauri Toler, Trapnell Elementary



NEW SOUND WAVES RECORDED ON THE CAMPUS OF LOCKHART MAGNET CREATIVE SCIENCE CENTER!

Recorder instruments will be used with Lockhart's fourth grade classes this year as they prepare for the Symphony field trip thanks to a wonderful grant awarded to us from HCEMEC! Performances done throughout the year can be enhanced with recorders!

Playing the recorder is a wonderful way to have students feel they own the music they perform, and with a great sense of accomplishment! Not all children can afford luxuries, such as an instrument, but once they have it in their hands and parents see performances, you might be surprised how parents will find a way!

Educationally, it reinforces the concepts and terminology through performance that students are required in Hillsborough County to know for the end of year County Assessment. Playing the recorder develops self-control, finger dexterity, and can support the students' future, encouraging them to continue to pursuing music as a subject in the middle school years and beyond!

Another important factor is how it can influence reading skills and comprehension, as well as mathematical knowledge through reading music, and coordinating left and right brain activity to accomplish performing on recorders! Thus, this can help the students at Lockhart master the skills in the regular classroom. Developing the focus alone it takes to play a recorder can intensify study skills!

Having the recorders will help create a positive mindset, as in *The Little Engine that Could*; "I think I can" ...instead of "I can't"!



Michelle de Lucca-Lowrey, Lockhart Magnet Creative Science Center



LOCKHART STUDENTS SHOW
OFF THEIR NEW SKILLS
AND THEIR NEW RECORDERS.

As a new music teacher I was so excited for the instruments I have in my classroom. I was even more excited to learn that my school would be receiving drums from a grant awarded by the HCEMEC last school year. I hope these instruments will provide my students with opportunities to learn more about music. I also hope that they give students the chance to explore music and be creative. I plan to incorporate these drums into everyday music lessons as well as special music performances.



Ashley Fowler, West Tampa Elementary

Each year the HCEMEC awards Mini-Grants to Council members for professional development, instruments, books, or other music materials. This year the Music Council will be awarding another \$4000 in grants! You could apply and receive up to \$1000 for your classroom or professional development. Make sure you are an HCEMEC member, apply for a grant and...

JUST ASK!

Be sure to check out the next issue of *On The UpBeat*, which will feature HCEMEC members utilizing their mini-grants in awesome professional development workshops.

SUPERVISOR'S SOUND-OFF!

It's a new school year with new adventures and new opportunities for students to shine in music!

Welcome to our new teachers! They have already bonded through Content Area Training and have begun an exciting journey in their first year in Hillsborough.

Lincoln and Riverhills Elementary Schools have begun strings programs to complement their IB status and we are pleased to have Joannie Sears, (Lincoln) and Rebecca Gross (Riverhills) join our strings faculty. (And yes, we need all of those violins in hiding out there!)

I hope the framed certificates were given to teachers at Professional Study Day have their way into a prominent place to proudly display our recognition as one of the Best Communities for Music Education 2013. This is a great advocacy tool, so use it to promote music education in our schools!

As always, I am available to assist throughout the school year and look forward to hearing from you.

 *Melanie Faulkner,*
Supervisor of Elementary Music

WELCOME NEW MUSIC SPECIALISTS!

Jonathan Casanas,
Burney

Lynn Cammareri,
Cannella

James Workman,
Collins

Thomas Waistell,
Cork

Meghan Jones,
Davis

Christine Sabio,
Dunbar

Kevin Sayers,
Kimbell

Holly Mullenix-Stack,
Oak Grove

Sara Alsafer,
Oak Park

Rebecca Layton,
Sulphur Springs

Rebecca Traenkner,
Turner

Ashley Fowler,
West Tampa

Anya Kovelenko,
Ruskin



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2013-2014 HCEMEC

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Chrissy Russell

On The Upbeat!

Cliff Fouts

Member at Large

Jonathan Hunt

Mentoring

Jennifer LeBlanc

PLC Coordinators

Kyla Bailey & Krista Patnode

www.sdhc.k12.fl.us

Tech Tidbits

Search for "Elementary Music Council" and
"Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators Advocacy"
to join us on Facebook.

ADVOCACY ALERT

Nearly 100% of past winners in the prestigious Siemens Westinghouse Competition in Math, Science and Technology (for high school students) play one or more musical instruments.

**-The Midland Chemist (American Chemical Society)
Vol. 42, No.1, Feb. 2005**