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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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2015 FMEA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE AND ALL-STATE CONCERTS

Music Specialists of Hillsborough County are extremely fortunate that each year the FMEA Professional Development Conference and All-State Concerts, the ultimate event for music educators in the state of Florida, is held right here in our backyard!

This proximity makes it possible for so many colleagues from Hillsborough County to participate in the myriad of Professional Development sessions, and more importantly share some of the many great things we are doing with the rest of the State!



Check out the many ways in which we shared our expertise on the following pages, and how we in Hillsborough County show our *Relevance in The Key of C: Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity!*

At top, Ernesta Chicklowski, conducts the National Anthem at the All-State Chorus Concert.

Above, Todd Jefferis, Kim Roberts, and the Mitchell Elementary School Bobcat Chorus & String Ensemble perform at FMEA.



ALL-STATE ELEMENTARY CHORUS

This year ten students from six different elementary schools represented Hillsborough County in the All-State Elementary Chorus! With the new on-line audition submission, we are pleased to have so many students chosen from all over the state to be a part of this phenomenal ensemble.

Be sure to keep your FMEA and FEMEA membership current so that you can submit your students for next year. And be on the look-out for information about the all new All-State Orff Ensemble!



*All-State Chorus
Students of
Betty Trascritti and
Jodie Donahoo
(not pictured)
from Mary Bryant
Elementary.*



*Lorri Naylor and the
All-State Chorus students
of Lowry Elementary.*



*Courtney Santiago
and her All-State
student from
Nelson Elementary.*

*Tori Walsh from
Tampa Palms
Elementary
and her
All-State student.*



*Rebecca Traenkner
and her All-State
student from
Bartels-Turner K8.*

*Eleana Moffre
and the
All-State Chorus
student from
Lake Magdalene
Elementary.*



FMEA LEADERSHIP AWARD

MELANIE FAULKNER

The Leadership Award is presented to an individual who demonstrates outstanding and sustained skill in a leadership or an administrative capacity and who carries the mission of FMEA forward throughout the state and/or the nation. The recipient must have demonstrated notable achievements as a leader in the promotion of music education and a continued commitment to the profession.

Congratulations to Melanie Faulkner, elementary music supervisor for Hillsborough County Public Schools, nominated by Ernesta Chicklowski on behalf of the Florida Elementary Music Educators Association.

Melanie Faulkner is the heartbeat of music for Hillsborough County. Melanie serves as the music supervisor for more than 215 elementary music teachers and strings specialist in the district. She has a daily presence in music classrooms, supports new educators, provides quality professional development opportunities and contributes to arts education throughout the state of Florida. She works tirelessly yet joyfully to ensure that each music teacher has the resources and tools to share music with his or her students. The music education program in Hillsborough County has been recognized by the NAMM Foundation and has been named one of the Best Communities for Music Education in America for the past few years under the leadership of Melanie Faulkner. Mrs. Faulkner focuses on making music education relevant in our schools.

Melanie Faulkner graduated with the B.M.E. from Lee University and then the M.A. in music education from the University of South Florida. In 2004, she earned the national board certification in music education.

In addition to overseeing music instruction for 145 elementary schools in Hillsborough County, Melanie is the school district's liaison to the Straz, the Patel Conservatory, the Arts Council and the University of South Florida, to name just a few.

As the elementary music supervisor for Hillsborough County, Melanie helps to implement county-wide professional learning communities, community performances, professional development opportunities, a countywide multicultural festival, a fine arts festival and grants that provide music teachers with opportunities to apply for music equipment or professional development. In addition to the leadership that Melanie personally provides, she seems to have the ability to discover and nurture the leadership qualities in others. Many of the letters of support talk about how Melanie has provided the music teachers in Hillsborough County with the opportunity to grow and take on leadership roles of their own. Jeff Henson, music teacher at Hammond Elementary, puts it best when he says, "Melanie is a leader of leaders who brings out the best in every teacher so that those teachers can then go out and bring out the best in their students."

Barbara Hancock, instructional leadership director for the county, says that Melanie promotes the arts so positively in the community and is always willing to go above and beyond so that each and every task she undertakes is flawless and an excellent reflection of the schools and the Hillsborough district. She states, "I am proud to work with Melanie Faulkner and feel fortunate that she is leading the Hillsborough music program."

In so many ways, Hillsborough County is a model for music programs throughout our state. This is due much in part to the extraordinary leadership of Melanie Faulkner as the county's elementary music supervisor.

Ernesta Chicklowski, Roosevelt Elementary



FMEA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

USE IT MONDAY!

Presented by Tim Wiegand

Tim Wiegand is very animated and his musical games are engaging! He did a walkthrough using volunteers to show the audience what each game was. Some games included Dr. Frank's Activation Game, Pop Goes the Statue, Crazy Letters, Deputy Dorkface, Boomwhacker conductor, and The Clown Dance. His lessons reinforce getting students to move, playing instruments, and singing solos, etc. I would love to incorporate the Dr. Frank's Activation game in October to get my students moving to the steady beat and plan on trying out the Crazy Letter to review dynamics.

♪ Mindy Mabry, Bay Crest Elementary

THE POWER OF RHYTHM: TEAM BUILDING TECHNIQUES FOR EVERY ENSEMBLE

Presented by Kelly Cunningham & Jessica Fredricks

Using Orff and drum circle rhythm repetition drills, these ladies emphasize using eye contact to guide students to recover from trouble when the train feels like it is coming off the tracks. They contend that the reason we teach rhythm is to teach the life lessons of flexibility, adaptability and resilience. My favorite tip they used is employing occasional cutoffs resulting in a full measure of silence and later two measures of silence, proving the students have internalized the beat.

♪ Greg Dunn, Anderson Elementary

RHYMES, RHYTHMS & BEYOND!

Presented by Jeff Henson

Jeff Henson introduces a collection of rhythmic pieces that can be used to teach music concepts such as Ostinato, Form, Syncopation, Beat, Rhythm and Round. The pieces used speech, body percussion and instruments to foster student creativity and facilitate the teaching of the concepts. Speech pieces introduced included "Hot! Hot", "It's So Cold", and "Bubble Gum". This session offered valuable materials and training for techniques that can easily be incorporated into the music classroom on a regular basis.

♪ Louis Bloodworth, Bryan Elementary, Plant City



Hillsborough's own
Jeff Henson, left, Hammond
Elementary,
and Carole Pearce, right,
Nelson Elementary, present
their sessions at FMEA.





FMEA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

IT'S ABOUT TIME - WORLD RHYTHMS REVISITED

Presented by Kalani Das

We did not learn English by getting out the book and learning a noun, verb adjective or personal pronoun. We learned it by just imitating what we heard. Therein is the philosophy that Kalani was showing everyone in his session, It's About Time—World Rhythms Revisited. He used a lot of body rhythms, voice, instruments, or anything that was at our convenience to develop the sound we were after. He demonstrated the difference between long and short sounds and how to achieve them. He is a very powerful and motivational speaker.

♪ Thomas Floyd, Summerfield Elementary

SIX THINGS COLLEGE CAN'T TEACH YOU

Presented by David Hedgecoth & Ryan Kelly

This session covered what to expect as a new teacher. The presenters spoke about solutions to make teaching music a career, not a job. They also discussed ways to keep in touch with other musicians and how to work well with faculty members. Two pointers that I took away from this session were how to map out my financial plans, and find a music mentor. These pointers are important because being financially stable will help me focus solely on my career. Secondly, having someone who I can confide in and learn from will help me become successful, with minimal stress.

♪ Jabril Williams, B.T. Washington Elementary



Hillsborough's own David Hendricks, Oak Grove Elementary, presents "Using Songwriting to Facilitate Collaboration & Creativity in the General Music Classroom".



S-T-R-E-T-C-H YOUR LESSONS

Presented by Sandy Lantz & Gretchen Wahlberg

This session provided ways to stretch your lessons into multi-lesson units, as well as ways to add enrichment for those who grasp concepts easily and need a little more challenge.

I loved the warm-up presented by Gretchen that she uses for playing drums, which involved warming up both hands evenly and starting with quarter notes and increasing tempo. She was teaching a lot of vocabulary through that warm-up alone. I also loved the literary connection Sandy Gretchen used with the book *Prairie Chicken Little* by Jackie Mims Hopkins. They hit 5 different NGSSs with one multi-lesson unit for third grade!

♪ Samantha Driscoll, Reddick Elementary



FMEA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

S.O.S. - SMART ORFF STRATEGIES: SUPPORT CRITICAL THINKING IN YOUR GENERAL MUSIC CLASSROOM WITH INTERACTIVE WHITEBOARD TECHNOLOGY

Presented by Helen Walton

Helen Walton's objectives for this workshop were as follows: We can actively make music using SMARTboard technology, we can learn how to incorporate this technology into music, and that we would leave her session saying, "I Can Do That!"

She discusses that the SMARTboard is a "tool" in our music "toolbox", to be used along with our other resources. It appeals to all learners: visual, aural, and kinesthetic, as well as using multiple levels of Blooms' Taxonomy in just one lesson! Helen showed us some of the functions that we could use to create lessons.

My school has just been refreshed, and I will be receiving a tablet for the music classroom. I wanted to take this training, so I can actually use my SMARTboard with functions that I learned in this workshop.

♪ Lani Winslow, Pinecrest Elementary

DRUMMING & GROOVING: A COLLABORATION OF LEARNING

Presented by Nathaniel Strawbridge

This was an awesome experience to be able to spend so much time making music and learning techniques for world drumming that I have seen at the Fine Arts Festival but have never really understood how or why they got the players to play the way they did with their body movements. This was an experience in technique, passion, and precision that was exhilarating! I left with a strong desire to do this training again and again and obtain drums for my classroom so that I could pass this feeling on to my students.

♪ Daniel Burrows, Mango Elementary



It was a packed house for the Friday night drumming session presented by Hillsborough's Nate Strawbridge.





WINTER BELLFEST

HOSTED AT SEFFNER ELEMENTARY



From left, Melanie Faulkner, Supervisor of Elementary Music Education, Rosanne Rush, Seffner AP, Elizabeth Giles, Seffner Elementary Principal, Kim Opperman, Seffner, Carol Baccoli, Lopez, Jennifer LeBlanc, Chiles, Kathryn Jurado, Limona, and School Board Member Melissa Snively at the Winter BellFest.

The Second Annual Winter BellFest was held on December 19 at Seffner Elementary.

Participating ensembles included:

Chiles Elementary Embellish,
Limona Elementary Roaring Ringers,
Lopez Elementary Ringtones, and
Seffner Elementary Handbells.

HANDBELLS AND CHIMES IN GENERAL MUSIC

The beginning of the school year started off with a fantastic workshop on utilizing handbells & handchimes which was brought to us by our very own Jennifer LeBlanc. No matter what level of ringer or handbell choir conductor you are, you took away a wealth of knowledge from this training. Jennifer helped outline very simple and effective techniques for preparing sheet music, structuring your choir, conducting rehearsals, auditioning strategies, and so much more!

One of the biggest takeaways for me was "Air Ringing". "Air Ringing" is how Jennifer introduces a new piece to her choirs. Instead of playing the first time around, her students pretend they are holding their bells and then ring through the piece. This technique takes me back to the days of high school band where we would "finger" through pieces in the sight-reading room at MPA before playing them. This technique helps eliminate the discordant sound of wrong notes and allows them to focus on the rhythm. What a great way to make a new song more comfortable! On a side note, I now use this technique to begin my rehearsals to help focus my students and it has truly made a difference.

I truly got a lot out of good information out of this training. It is not often that we get the chance to come together for a more specialized focus. It was truly worth the time, even on a Saturday, to have this opportunity for growth!

♪ Rebecca Traenkner, Philip Shore Elementary

BRAVO!

Congratulations to:

Tracy Messina, Sessums Elementary

for receiving the FMEA Music Education Service Award
for **27** years of service in music education!

and

Scott Brown, Carrollwood Elementary

For receiving the FMEA Music Education Service Award
for **28** years of service in music education!

*Lindsay Blanc,
Potter Elementary,
and Steve Florio,
Grady Elementary,
share their knowledge of
World Drumming at the
FMEA Curriculum Fair.*



*Kim Roberts and
Todd Jefferis lead
the Mitchell
Elementary School
Bobcat Chorus
& String Ensemble
in a Mini-Concert
performance
at FMEA.*




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Excellence in Education
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**Supervisor of
Elementary Music**
Melanie Faulkner

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