

What's The Buzz?

BETTER ENVIRONMENTS TO ELEVATE EDUCATORS



Join us on LinkedIn!

We're thrilled to announce that BEEE is expanding its digital presence by joining LinkedIn! As a forward-thinking organization dedicated to fostering professional connections and sharing valuable insights, we believe LinkedIn is the perfect platform to engage with our stakeholders, supporters, and fellow educators.

By creating a LinkedIn account, we aim to provide you with even more opportunities to stay updated on our latest news, industry trends, job openings, and upcoming events. Whether you're seeking career advice, interested in joining us for our events, or simply want to connect with like-minded individuals, our LinkedIn page will be the go-to destination for all things BEEE!

Joining us on LinkedIn is easy! Simply visit our page [\[link\]](#) and hit the "Follow" button to stay in the loop. We encourage you to engage with our posts, share your thoughts, and connect with our team members. Your support and participation are invaluable to us as we embark on this exciting journey.

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Interview Spotlight



ABOUT JUAN GABRIEL MARTIN:

Juan Gabriel Martin is a dedicated music educator at Citrus Grove K-8 Center, he earned recognition as the District's Rookie Teacher of the Year in 2024. Martin is also the co-founder of Compositum Musicae Novae, an organization dedicated to showcasing and promoting emerging talents across various artistic disciplines, including music, dance, literature, and visual arts, thereby enriching the cultural landscape.

Magic in Music: How Teaching Can Become an Attraction

Interviewed by Irene Alba

Published: 6:00 PM EDT, Thursday March 7, 2024

Q: Congratulations on winning the Rookie Teacher of the Year award! Can you share with us what winning this award means to you personally and professionally?

A: Well, it's not something I ever thought I could win, to be honest. When I won at the school level, I thought, "oh okay, that's a great compliment from my colleagues that they chose me for this". But when I won the region, I was completely blown away because there are so many other schools, and it's not something I was actively pursuing. I was just working really hard on my week-to-week lessons, doing my best to create an engaging experience for my students. So, I think what it really meant to me was recognition for the work I've been putting in. I've been working really hard for a while to innovate and cool experience environment for my students, so the fact that it was recognized felt amazing. Probably the best part was the way my students reacted, they were so happy that I won, and feeling that love [from them] was something I'll never forget.

Q: How do you plan to use this new influence you have as RTOY to enhance your impact on the students and the education community?

A: I think I've been experimenting a lot as a teacher. I tried new things every single week.

Interview Spotlight

Sometimes they are a great success, other times they flop, and I have to alter them. I think it would be beneficial for the educational community to see the way I experiment. It might inspire [teachers] to put their own personalities into some methods I've tried and to see the type of results they could get. That their teaching methods. Perhaps to maybe affect more people on a larger scale.

Q: Could I hear more about those lesson plans and how you put your teaching philosophy into those plans?

A: I believe that going through COVID as a teacher changed the way I taught. It took a little while as a music teacher to get back into a classroom because the priority was to have the academic classes first. I was traveling for a bit, and I finally got my classroom. It was a little sparse because even all of our equipment was in closets, so we had to start getting very creative on how to make a hands-on experience with limited resources. So, I started experimenting with my class, and I thought, "what if I experiment with lighting? What if I experiment with ambiance? What if I experiment with story?" I started really studying Disney, so I would study attractions and take mental notes on how they create an experience. Why are people engaged here? Why are people happy? I started applying a lot of those imagineering principles in my classroom. So, the revelation I had a few years ago, especially as a music teacher, is that my class is somewhat like a theme park attraction. Especially elementary music because, I have a group of kids that come in, they ride my class like an experience, and they come right out, and as they come out, there's another group coming immediately after. They come in in a cycle. I thought, "wow, that's exactly like a ride!" I stopped thinking about what I'm doing as a lesson and started thinking of it as an experience, and little by little, things started growing from that, which is the beautiful thing about creativity. You lay one seed and then it sprouts a few more. I would say that's where the branch of my philosophy started.

Q: How do you think your philosophy might evolve in the future?

A: That's a good question. Right now, I'm working on a lot of little projects throughout my lessons because I see each lesson as its own attraction.

Interview Spotlight

My class is like a theme park. For example, I built a time machine experience in my classroom. It's a lot of fun for the kids. On time machine days, the room transforms. They come in, it's dark with special lights that light up all around, and I run the surround sound around the room. I create the experience of traveling back in time to meet a composer, a musician, or even a fictional person from history. But, that generates a story that leads to the song we're going to do, it creates context, and it creates a complete cross-curricular lesson.

The time machine began as an experiment where I would put the warp speed videos from Star Wars, and I would say, we're traveling back in time, the kids would grab the tables and shake them. The next year I thought, they like doing that so I created the time machine, and they loved it. I talked to [the machine], there's a script, there's theater involved, there's characters that speak out of it, there's artifacts that come to life, like a budget Epcot ride. I use AI to generate some of the stories and the videos and the pictures, and the voices, all these moving parts. But, the more I think of it, I think the core of it is actually narrative.

It's not so much the technology, and I think what other teachers take of it is that this idea of teaching can be expanded upon through using narrative and using story in your class rather than telling someone to do something for their future or talking to them about something that happened in the past. I think finding ways to integrate narrative makes your class irresistible because it is human. That's why we go home and watch Netflix. We want story and narrative, it's something we crave. So, I hope to continue developing my class to have revolving narratives going through it in all these ways, I really see that that's where it's going.

Q: What part of your background influences how you create that narrative into your lessons?

A: I studied music composition in college, I'm a composer. So, I'm used to looking at a blank page and creating music from nothing. I think [this exercise] helped me become more creative in the classroom. Recently, I've been thinking about what makes a good teacher. I didn't realize when I started how similar it is to being a composer.

Interview Spotlight

When you go into composition school, you think you may sound like Beethoven or Mozart in a few years, and you quickly realize you will never sound like them. But that doesn't mean you can't write a piece of music people will enjoy, that doesn't mean you can't create something. You just have to be yourself. [Teachers and composers] share a similarity in that they both involve a craft. On component to teaching is the classroom management, lesson design, there's relating to students, all types of things. The other part is being able to integrate yourself. I think that's what I've been experimenting with. I have found a way to integrate my passions and my interests into each of my lessons and [my students] feel it. It's really hard to fake passion when you're teaching, so I think learning how to integrate that help me connect to people.

Q: Looking back on your rookie year, if you could give one piece of advice to your past self, what would it be, and why?

A: I remember my first year, I came in thinking that just because I found something beautiful, my students would too. I remember little things I would try that failed. For example, I've always loved the pieces of Edvard Grieg, he has these pieces for piano that are short and sweet and they're very pretty. I thought doing a transition activity so they can hear it and perhaps they would connect with it. To my dismay, they were just over it. If I could go back in time, I would tell myself, "Hey, just because you connect with it, doesn't mean they understand it. You have to create the narrative around it and then they will". So over time, when I introduced something, I don't just look for something beautiful or interesting. I find the narrative around it and the cross curricular connections to it, then all of a sudden, the kids connect with it deeply. Doing that now and learning how to craft narrative has changed the way I teach. It has been a journey though! I'm very critical of myself in that sense. If I have a lesson that fails, or I didn't feel reached its peak potential, I go back and I say, "what was it about it that wasn't engaging enough?" So, you go back and get better at your craft and the design of it. I really wish I would've understood this concept of connecting people with narrative before. I sometimes wish I could go back to my first year and reteach my first students to give them the experience I know I could give them now!

**Check out our website for more interviews like Mr. Martin's at
www.beeefoundation.org/news**

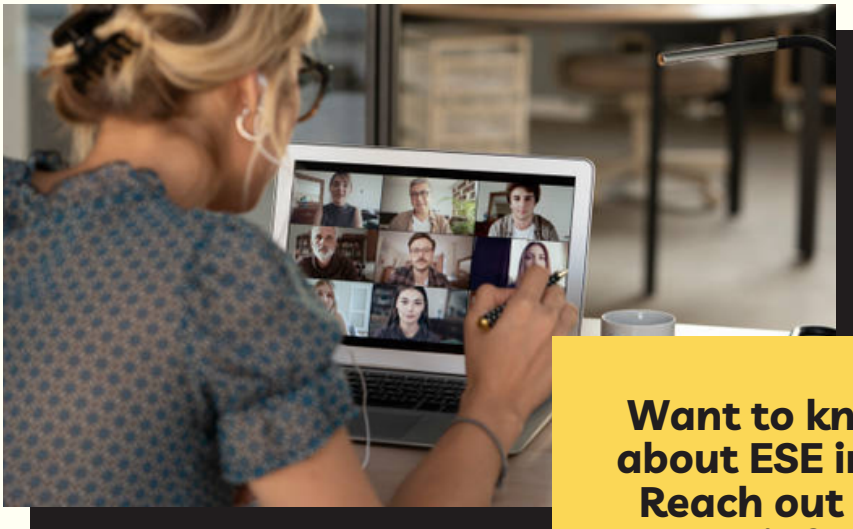
TFA Professional Development Event

1 APR
2024
06 PM

Navigating the Essentials of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) in Florida

Join us for our upcoming event in collaboration with Teach For America. This webinar is going to be a virtual presentation aimed at enhancing educators' understanding and skills when working with students with disabilities. This PD session encompasses various critical areas of ESE, including its legal framework, identification processes, instructional strategies, and more.

[This webinar session is intended only for TFA Members]



Want to know more about ESE in Florida? Reach out to us for more information!



We're Hiring!

Here at BEEE, we desire to grow educators and students who wish to build their experience in the fields of Communication, Marketing, Education, and Nonprofit Management.

We are currently looking for a:

- Grant Research and Writing Intern
- Communications Intern
- Marketing Intern

Internship details:

- Application deadline: May 20th
- Location: Remote
- Internship dates: June 10th - August 5th 2024
- Where to apply: www.beeefoundation.org/careers

For more information, check out our website!

**Apply to
join the
BEEE Team!**



Playlist of the Month

As an educator, staying motivated for the new year can be challenging with various stresses constantly on your mind. To kickstart your day, simply put on your earphones and tune in to this invigorating playlist designed to uplift and inspire amazing teachers like yourself.

These motivational songs are curated to keep you motivated and energized as you dedicate yourself to creating a caring and secure learning environment for your students.

1. **Sunflower** - Post Malon, Swae Lee
2. **Who Says** - Selena Gomez & The Scene
3. **Shut Up and Dance** - WALK THE MOON
4. **Youngblood** - 5 Seconds of Summer
5. **Brand New** - Ben Rector
6. **In My Blood** - Shawn Mendes
7. **Maniac** - Conan Gray
8. **Keep Your Head Up** - Andy Grammer
9. **Safe And Sound** - Capital Cities
10. **The Bones** - Maren Morris
11. **Crash My Car** - COIN
12. **Can I Call You Tonight?** - Dayglow
13. **Team** - Lorde
14. **What You Know** - Two Door Cinema Club
15. **Ho Hey** - The Lumineers
16. **Say** - Moon Taxi
17. **Saturday Sun** - Vance Joy
18. **Brazil** - Declan McKenna
19. **ILYSB** - LANY
20. **Song About You** - The Band CAMINO

**Kickback, Relax,
and Unwind**



April Events



BEEE Events

April 1 - TFA Member Event

Daily Observances

April 1 - April Fool's Day
April 7 - World Health Day
April 22 - Earth Day
April 26 - Arbor Day



Help Create Impact by donating to Better Environments to Elevate Educators

YOUR MONEY AT WORK



Your donation will help us organize and conduct professional development programs. These programs will focus on topics that provide teachers with the knowledge and skills to improve their teaching practices and student outcomes.



Your donation will facilitate networking opportunities for educators to connect with their peers and share best practices, create a community of educators who are passionate about improving education, we can foster collaboration and teamwork among teachers.



Your donation will help us provide educational resources such as books, online courses, and instructional materials to assist educators in their professional journey, ensuring that every teacher has the necessary tools to succeed.

WHY CHOOSE US?

BEEE is led by teachers creating content for teachers that helps retain qualified educators it also benefits students.



DIAMOND BEEE \$100,000+

- Thank you letter
- Donor Impact Letter
- Brochure Recognition
- Branded Merchandise
- Website and Socials Recognition
- Specific Campaign Recognition
- Exclusive Event Invitations



PLATINUM BEEE \$50,000-99,999

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- Website and Socials Recognition
- Exclusive Event Invitations



GOLD BEEE \$10,000-49,999

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- Exclusive Event Invitations



SILVER BEEE \$1,000-9,999

- Thank you letter
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- Event Invitations



BRONZE BEEE \$500-999

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- Branded Merchandise
- Event Invitations



POLLINATOR BEEE \$5-499

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