



The Midwest Clinic

International Band and Orchestra Conference

GROW WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED CULTIVATING SUCCESS IN A SMALL SCHOOL

Thursday, December 18, 2025 11:30AM-12:30PM W185

Dr. J.R. Carlisle, Principal, Hannan Jr/Sr High School, West Virginia

Dr. Karen Gregg, Director, Lyons Middle Senior High School, Colorado

Rebecca Warren, *Retired*, Ft. Payne HS, Alabama; Mandan MS, North Dakota

Trude Fraase Wolf, Superintendent/Teacher, Zeeland/Ashley Schools, North Dakota

[Live link to submit real-time questions to our panel](#)

Introduction of presenters

Creating School and Community Support

- Support within the school
- Creating a band culture
- Creating a community culture

Programming and Rescoring for Instrumentation Challenges

- Working with the group you have
- Fun *and* educational programming
- Utilizing a wide grade-spread to your advantage
- Re-scoring and FLEX arrangements

Creating a Partnership with Your Administration

- Thoughts from a Superintendent (Trudy)
- Thoughts from a Principal (J.R.)

Creative Ways to Garner Financial Support

- Always be advocating – how to view potential sources of income
- Grants
- Fundraising

Questions from Attendees

Links to Additional Resources Mentioned in the Presentation

[Rescoring for the Small or Incomplete Band](#) – Karen Gregg/Kirk Vogel – 2019 Midwest Presentation

[Mind the Gap \(Working with Bands with Incomplete Instrumentation\)](#) – Trudy Fraase Wolf – 2021 Midwest Presentation

[My Circus: Recruitment and Retention](#) – Becky Rodgers Warren – 2021 Midwest Presentation

[Size Doesn't Matter: How to Achieve Big Results With Your Small Band](#) – Becky Rodgers Warren – 2016 Midwest presentation

[Nothing Happens By Accident](#) – Trudy Fraase Wolf, 2024 Interview with The Instrumentalist Magazine

[Marching Roundtable Podcast: Building Your Culture- From 4 Kids to 70](#) – J.R. Carlisle, 2024 Podcast Interview

[Hannan Junior/Senior High's band selected as W.Va.'s ambassadors for Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade](#) – J.R. Carlisle, 2025 Media Interview

[Donation presentation to Band Program](#) – J.R. Carlisle, 2025 Media Interview

Panelist biographies



Robert (J.R.) Carlisle is the current Principal (and former band director) at Hannan JSHS in West Virginia. He has 38 years of experience in education. His bands consistently received superior ratings and won a Sudler Shield. He directed numerous WGI regional finalists (guard/drum line) and an international finalist. He was a consultant with the Spartans, the 2023 Open Class DCI Champions. J.R. has adjudicated in 42 states and at the BOA Grand Nationals. He is a founding member of the Tri-State Circuit as well as Guard/Education Coordinator for CIPA. He is the judge coordinator for the Nebraska Bandmasters. Mr. Carlisle has adjudicated for DCI/WGI, Drum Corp Europe's Championships and Music Arts in Kyoto, Japan. At Hannan JSHS, the program started with 4 members and grew to become 36% of the student body. They are the West Virginia state representative at the 2025 Pearl Harbor Parade in Hawaii. Mr. Carlisle has won numerous honors including teacher of the year awards in West Virginia and Ohio and was a 2025 and 2026 national semifinalist for the Grammy Music Educator Award. He has presented at state music conventions in 10 states. He has a BA, MA, MBA and an Ed.D. He would like to thank his mother Virginia Carlisle (RIP) and his high school band director Gary Stewart. Email: jcarlisle@k12.wv.us



Karen Gregg has served as the Director of Bands at Lyons Middle Senior High School for the past 24 years. She directs the five bands (two middle school concert bands, Middle School Jazz Band, High School Concert Band, High School Jazz Band) in addition to teaching The History of Rock and Roll and Beginning Guitar. In her time as director, the band program has experienced 400% growth and now includes nearly 50% of the school population.

Lyons ensembles under her direction have performed at the Colorado MEA convention 3 times (High School Band, High School Jazz Band, 7th/8th Middle School Band) She has co-presented a session on how to re-score existing music for small bands with her mentor Kirk Vogel at Midwest, CMEA, OMEA (Ohio) and TMEA (Texas). Karen serves on the Colorado All-State Band Steering Committee, the CHSAA Music Advisory Board, and is currently the President of the Colorado Bandmasters Association. She would like to thank Kirk Vogel, Colleen Ford, Chris Frank, and her husband Shawn Gregg.

Email: gregg_karen@svvvsd.org



Trudy Fraase Wolf has been a K-12 music instructor for Zeeland School since 1993, the school librarian since 1997, and an administrator since 2013. Previously, she taught band and choir in Rugby, ND for the 1992-93 school year. She just retired as superintendent in 2025 while continuing to teach music part-time for the Zeeland and Ashley schools. Mrs. Fraase Wolf completed a Master's degree in Education Leadership and Administration from Northern State University, a Master's degree in Music Education from the

University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and a Master's degree in Oboe Performance, also from UI. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Education from Dickinson State and has a minor in library science from Valley City State. Trudy Fraase Wolf has published in The Double Reed Journal, The Chorister, and the North Dakota Music Educator's Journal and has presented at the NDMEA and at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic. Trudy would like to thank Zeeland and Ashley School Districts and her husband Allen Wolf.

Email: Trudy.FraaseWolf@k12.nd.us



Rebecca Warren served as band director for 40 years. She currently serves as a teacher, clinician, adjudicator, performer and mentor. She began teaching in rural and small towns in Alabama. She continued her teaching in North Dakota. In 2020 she founded Warren Music Consulting.

Mrs. Warren's bands consistently earned Superior ratings and Best in Class Awards. The bands performed in the London Parade and the Fiesta Bowl Parade. The band was also featured at the AMEA Conference. She served as President of AMEA, District Chairman, President-elect of the Alabama Bandmasters Association and West Region Band

Representative of NDMEA. She was awarded the Citation of Excellence by the NBA and Teacher of the Year in Fort Payne, AL. She received the 2021 NDMEA Distinguished Service Award and the 2025 NDBDA Distinguished Service Award. Becky resides on the prairie with her husband John, also a band director, and their golden retriever, Bama. She would like to thank Kelly Bell, Bill Brunner, Dr. Edd Jones, Dr. James Simpson, and John Warren.

Email: beckyrodgerswarren@gmail.com



Please consider attending the inaugural meeting of the **National Association of Small School Bands (NASSB)** at this Midwest Clinic.

Thursday, December 18

8:30PM

Prairie Room, McCormick Place West

With Gratitude:

This panel would like to offer heartfelt thanks to The Midwest Clinic for its support of Music Education. In particular, we are grateful for **Richard Crain**, Past President of the Midwest Board and the founder of the Small School Initiative. Thanks also go to those who wrote letters of recommendation for this presentation: Tim Holtan, Stan Mauldin, and Randall Coleman.