

MWC What's New for 2016

Small Schools Sessions (Sampling)

small school, BIG Design: Employing Creative Resources in the Marching Band

The marching band is the face of the total band program in any community. No matter how strong the concert band program, the public expects the band to be present at all athletic events, town parades, etc. For the small director the marching band is under even more scrutiny given the size of the community. This session aims at presenting directors in these communities with expert advice on how to make a BIG impact on the field with limited means and instrumentation.

Tearing Down the Wall between Music and Athletics-How to make the musical athlete work for you!

Contrary to opinion, music and athletics go hand in hand. I have coached 6 different sports and taught music for the past 29 years. I can show you how to make these work together to make a better music program, a better school sports program and a better student. A win, win, win scenario.

Small School rehearsal lab with composing legend Robert W. Smith discussing instrumentation, rescoring techniques and so much more! Learn how to achieve balanced sonorities from this master teacher-composer!

G.R.I.T. Passion and Perseverance! "Gaining Resources In Teaching Music" for the Small School Band!

Band directors of all size bands find it helpful to use a little GRIT to get through the day. The particular challenges of teaching the small band often requires an extra portion, if not a continuous supply of GRIT. Drawing from their combined fifty-nine years of collective experience, the father/daughter panel will discuss important aspects and solutions to various problems in teaching small school bands. The session will include a time for questions.

Title I Sessions (Sampling)

Engaging Challenging Students in Band and Orchestra

In this session, I will identify risk factors that lead to students acting out. Activities adapted from Eric Jensen's "Engaging Students with Poverty in Mind: Practical Strategies for Raising Achievement", plus findings from John Hattie's work, will be explained and applied to music education. These techniques work to engage all students, not just the challenging ones. All students need to feel safe in making mistakes so they can create, explore, and perform to their highest potential.

Teach the Kids and the Band Takes Care of Itself

Inspiring, empowering and educating students in challenging situations is the direction of music education in the foreseeable future. This presentation will provide problem solving approaches, educational strategies and a conceptual framework for creating the next generation of successful programs.

Title 1: A Label, Not A Limit

This presentation will focus on pedagogy, rehearsal technique, repertoire selection, motivation and the unique advantages and challenges of teaching in a Title 1 school. Proven strategies will be explored for building a strong educational culture and a successful middle school program that is the foundation of an outstanding high school experience.

"Hai!": Practical application of Japanese band methods in urban schools

For decades, musicians have admired the high level of performance typical of the common Japanese school band. At the same time, many directors have dismissed their pedagogy as "too foreign" or "not practical" for the American band room. Mr. Das will share some systems, techniques and strategies that are standard for Japanese bands, but often overlooked in the states. Students from Pritzker College Prep, a Title I school, will be on hand for live demonstration.

Beauty from the Beginning

"Over the years I have come to appreciate the importance of kids playing real music as early as possible; not just unison exercises, but real music with the stuff real music has: harmony, beauty, formal tension, a sense of purpose. This session will show directors that even with the simplest grade 1 piece there is so much beauty to be both had and found." -Frank Ticheli

