ArkMEA 2011 Hall of Fame

Debi Avra is currently the principal of Ruth Doyle Intermediate School in Conway, Arkansas. Debi received her BSE in English/Social Studies with honors in English from the University of Central Arkansas. She later pursued her Master's degree in Secondary School Leadership and earned her Educational Specialist degree from UCA.

Mrs. Avra taught for 14 years in the Conway Public School system at the Junior High School and at the High School levels, teaching English, Journalism, and sponsoring the school newspaper and the year book. She also taught at UCA in the College of Education. After four years of college teaching, Debi returned to the public schools, becoming the assistant principal of Carl Stuart Middle School for 7 years. In 2004 she was offered the position of Principal at the new Ruth Doyle Intermediate School in Conway. She has been principal at Ruth Doyle Intermediate School for the past 8 years.

Mrs. Avra has been an avid and passionate supporter of the arts in the Conway Public School system. She strives for a quality education for all students in all areas, knowing how much a strong music education impacts the whole child. She has been a leader in advocating for the arts, including funding, hiring qualified teachers, and ensuring that music remains an important part of the education of our children. She is an example of the kind of administrator that allows the arts to thrive in her school, indeed, demands that arts have a prominent role in the education of the students.

Mrs. Avra is married and has two daughters, both of them having chosen education as a profession.

Jaree Hall has been teaching music at Nashville Elementary School in Nashville, Arkansas since 1995. She was among the first group of elementary music teachers to become National Board Certified. She served as President of the Arkansas Elementary Music Educators Association, President-Elect and then President of the Arkansas Music Educators Association, and is currently Past President of that Association. She completed three levels of Orff Schulwerk certification at Southern Methodist University and master classes at University of Kentucky and University of Memphis. She is currently an editor for *Reverberations,* the newsletter of the American Orff Schulwerk Assocition. She will present two sessions at the AOSA National Conference in Pittsburgh in November. She has presented numerous workshops throughout the state for elementary music teachers.

Jaree holds a Bachelor of Music from Northwestern State University of Louisiana with a double major in flute and piano performance; and a Master of Music in piano performance from Texas Christian University. She serves as Children's Choir Coordinator and church pianist at First Baptist Church in Nashville, where her husband, Don, is minister of music and education. She and Don write and arrange choral music for their choir, and have several anthems published by Lifeway and Lorenz. She also performs regularly with the Hot Springs Concert Band and the Hot Springs Flute Choir.

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a free phone number and voicemail account from Google Voice and ask students to call in and record personal reactions to a school or community musical performance that they participated in or observed. Student messages can be downloaded as MP3 files and played for the class if appropriate.

Connections

Digital storytelling involves using images, narration, and other media to create a short video that tells a story in a creative way. Three examples of tools that can be used to create digital stories include Windows Movie Maker (PC) and iMovie (Mac), and *WeVideo.com*—a completely web-based video editing interface that is extremely intuitive. Students might engage in digital storytelling in order to learn and share about songs, composers, and other aspects of music from various regions, cultures, and historical periods.

Students can embark on a virtual field trip to famous recording studios around the world (*http://bit.ly/vftstudios*), and then explore diverse career paths in music using the Music Careers Trailmeme (*http://bit.ly/musiccareers*).

Music Notes and Tech Talk

Still hungry for more? View sample projects and lessons on my "Music Tech in Action" wiki, which is linked to my website at *http://www.emusictech.net*. While you're there, you can also subscribe to my blog to get more music tech ideas, follow me on Twitter (@emusictech), and explore my other sites and resources related to music technology.

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