

ARKMEA

May 2022



ARKMEA

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of the Arkansas Music Educators Association.*

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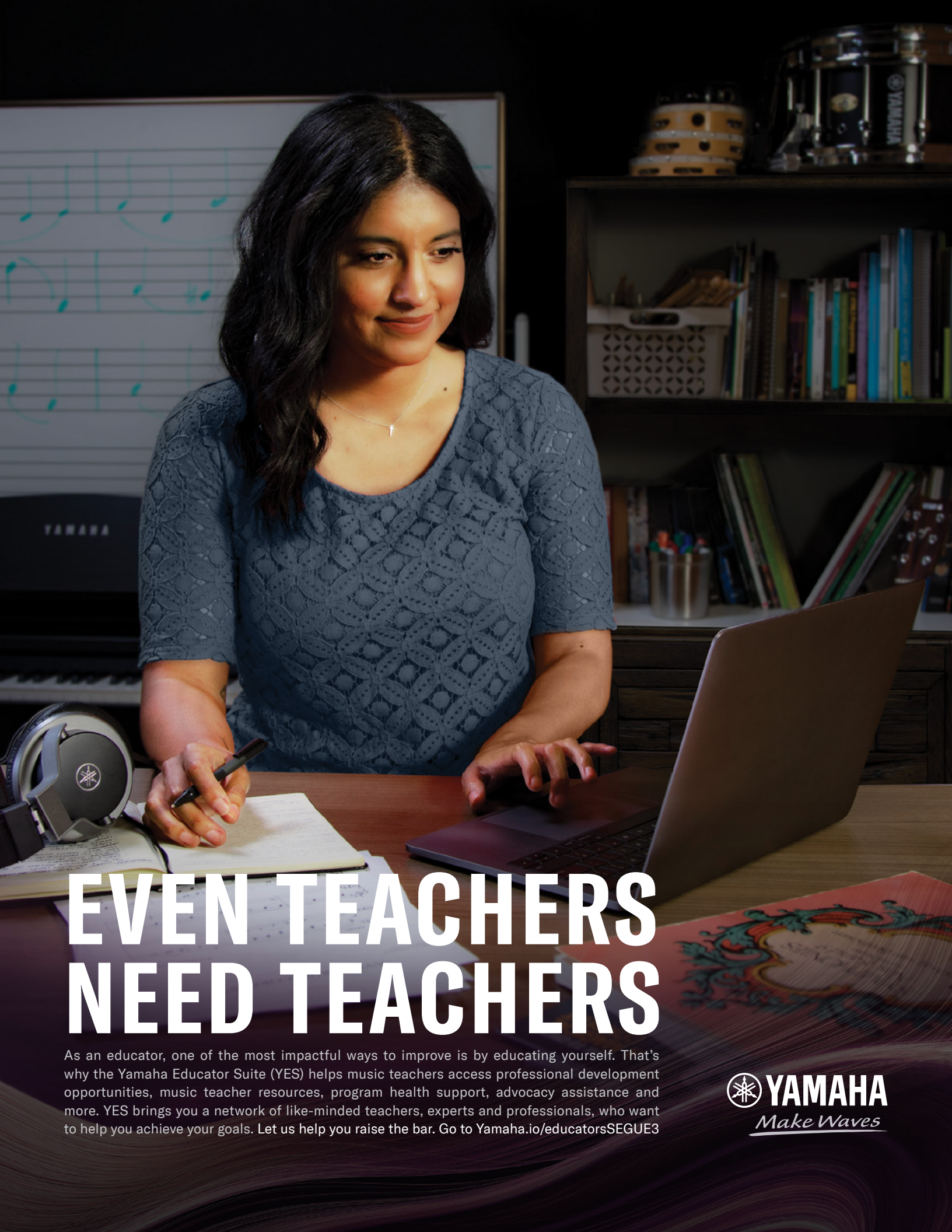
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Summer Project : Become a Google Educator

By James Maestri // ArkMEA Innovations Chair



Looking for something to do this summer? ArkMEA Innovations Chair, James Maestri, shared his experience with becoming a Google Educator.

What does it mean to be a Google Educator?

There are two levels of Google Educator certification. Beyond those basic certification levels, Google also provides opportunities to be a certified Trainer, Coach, or Innovator. Each level of certification arms you with varying degrees of skill, and each one could open career doors to you beyond your current role within your school or your district.

What steps does one need to take to become a Google Educator?

Google Certified Educator Levels 1 and 2 are achieved through exams that you take online via

[Google's Teacher Center](#). There is a small fee involved that you could either pay out of pocket or the fee could possibly be paid by your school district. To become a Certified Trainer, Coach, or Innovator, you must apply for each individually and submit whatever materials that are necessary. All of this information can be found on Google's Teacher Center website, also.

What is the time commitment for the courses/certification?

Levels 1 and 2 are relatively simple certification exams that could be completed by most any teacher with a working knowledge of Google's Apps For Education Suite which include Docs, Sheets, Slides, Classroom, Forms, etc. The Level 1 and 2 certification tests have a three hour time limit, but most people will finish each test in roughly one

and a half hours. There are free study materials available on the Google Teacher Center website to assist you in your preparation. Each of the Coach, Trainer, and Innovator certifications require a rigorous and competitive application process that may involve several months to attain.

Are all levels of certification needed? Are there any pros or cons to getting one or both?

None of the certifications are necessarily needed in order to be conversant or successful in Google Apps For Education. Any person can access the Google Teacher Center material or watch tutorials online about the apps and their use for free; however, there could be several benefits to attaining your credentials.

The Level 1 Certification exam concentrates more on your ability to have a working knowledge of the basic apps. The Level 2 Certification exam concentrates on your ability to effectively apply your knowledge of these apps through simulated projects. The Coach and Trainer Certifications are useful for educators looking to expand their career goals in order to mentor other educators on how to use Google Apps for Education. Or, as with the Innovator Certification, through progressing Google's mission through innovative education practices.

Because so many schools in Arkansas subscribe to Google Apps For Education, it might be to your benefit to effectively utilize all the tools given to you—especially in our new hybrid virtual/on-site educational environment. Additionally, many colleagues and administrators respect those who put extra time and energy into developing their craft. After attaining each level of certification, Google allows you to use their certification shields alongside your name in emails, letterheads, and resumes.

Is there a music-specific component?

There is not a specific content-related component attached to the Google Certification Exams. Google made these exams so that all educators and students would benefit from the various certifications.

How has this certification benefited you or changed your instruction?

Obtaining these certifications has helped me discover more innovative ways to engage students in my lessons. I now use Google Forms to survey my students about their likes and interests in order to select activities that meet their needs. Also, I have learned how to create “choose-your-own-learning” assignments through Google Docs, Google Slides, and Google Earth. Aside from classroom instruction, these certifications have given me opportunities to lead professional development and coach other teachers both within and outside of my academic specialty.

Is there anything else people should know if they are considering becoming a Google Educator?

I believe that people should always want to learn and advance their profession. Google has proved itself as a monster company with staying power beyond this generation. Many schools have realized this and are becoming believers in Google as well.

If you would like information about becoming a Google Certified Educator, I invite you to look at my previous [Tech Tip Tuesday](#) article on the ArkMEA website. You can reach out to me through email any time for help, as well. Also, check out the other Tech Tips Darla Corral and I have created that cover various other topics that will help you innovate and engage even more of your students.

Google Certifications Explained

Why Do It?	Certification Resources (Click to Go)	What You Will Learn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ You are in a Google School ◇ Many Schools are Google Schools ◇ Levels 1 + 2 are fast and inexpensive ◇ Study resources are easy to find ◇ Tests are "open book" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Google Teacher Center ◇ Level 1 Certification ◇ Level 2 Certification ◇ Trainer Certification ◇ Innovator Certification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Google product functions ◇ Google product integration ◇ Tools for teaching onsite, hybrid, and virtual ◇ Add-ons and 3rd party apps ◇ Much more!

Contact [James Maestri](#) for more help with Google Certifications



James Maestri is the Music Teacher at East Hills Middle School in Greenwood, Arkansas. Mr. Maestri's professional mission is to make the general music classroom a memorable experience for all students. He holds a Master's in Educational Leadership from Arkansas State University, a Bachelor's of Music Education from Arkansas Tech University, and currently serves as the Chair of Innovations for ArkMEA.



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Summer Tech Tip: Specdrums

By Darla Corral // ArkMEA Technology Chair

Technology is now a staple of the post-Covid classroom, creating opportunities for more hands-on and collaborative uses of technology to promote project based learning and creation. Between summer PD sessions and vacation lounging, music educators should look into Specdrums. Specdrums, by [Sphero](#), are small, wearable pieces of tech with built-in optical sensors to pick up the color of an object or surface and translate it into sound. The Specdrum ring connects to a phone or iPad through Bluetooth and the [Specdrums mix](#) or [Specdrums Edu](#) app. Students can use the multi-colored map to play sounds or touch any surface that corresponds to the twelve colors the SpecDrum recognizes. They are also available through [Amazon](#).

Specdrums allow the opportunity for cross-curricular learning at many times throughout the year. March is Music in Our Schools Month, but it is also National Youth Art Month. December holds Computer Science Education Week with the Hour of Code, November has National STEM Day, and April celebrates National Robotics Week. Specdrums could be incorporated into lessons inside and outside of the music room to observe any of these events. For example, after studying the work of Wassily Kandinsky in art, students could use the colors of their own Kandinsky style circle art to compose music. The study of synesthesia, a neurological condition that connects senses such as hearing sounds based on seeing certain colors, also offers a great opportunity to incorporate Specdrums as seen in [ArkMEA's Tech Tip Tuesday video](#). For composition lessons, students can use the rings to compose melodic or rhythmic patterns. Using discovery learning, students could be given three colors and aurally decode familiar songs of known tonal patterns. Not every student would have to have their own ring; this could be a group activity that promotes teamwork and collaboration. They can then remix it to create a variation. The app allows students to change the colors into different types of sounds or mixes in their library. It also has built in loops students can incorporate. The color coding is similar to that

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**SPECDRUMS ALLOW
THE OPPORTUNITY FOR
CROSS-CURRICULAR
LEARNING AT MANY
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THE YEAR**
”

used by Chrome Music Lab and Boomwhackers. For younger students, Specdrums brings a whole new meaning to found sounds. Students can discover traditional found sounds, but then also take the rings and see what type of sound the color conveys. Even my own older elementary students enjoyed walking around the music room and making sounds out of every surface. Consequently, Specdrums is a worthwhile tech tool that music educators could incorporate into composition and cross-curricular activities throughout the next school year.

Learn more tech tips from ArkMEA on our [website](#).



Darla Corral is the elementary music teacher at Parkway Elementary in the Bryant School District where she teaches kindergarten through fifth grade general music and directs the Parkway Elementary choir. She graduated summa cum laude from Henderson State University with a Bachelors in Music Education. She received her Masters in Music Education from Kent State University and completed her Kodály Certification at Ouachita Baptist University. She previously played clarinet with the Saline Symphony Orchestra. She is also an Apple Teacher and has a Google Certification in Level 1. Mrs. Corral strives to integrate technology into the music room's traditional pedagogies to create students who are engaged in music long past their time in her classroom.

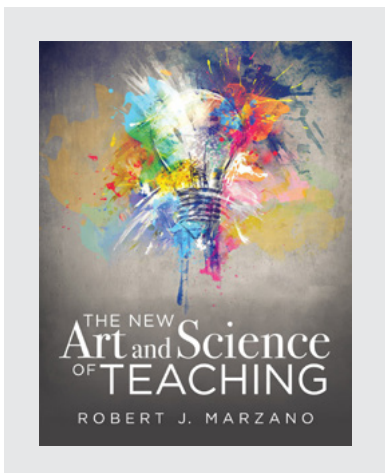
The New Art of Science and Teaching by Robert Marzano

Emotional Poverty by Ruby Payne — Love the Job, Lose the Stress by Leslie Moffat



Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us by Daniel Pink

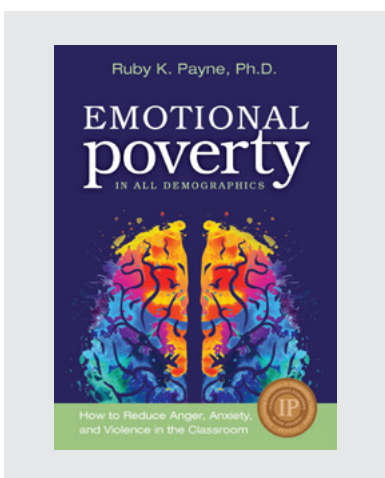
Music Education and Social Emotional Learning by Scott N. Edgar



The New Art of Science and Teaching by Robert Marzano

Imagine my lack of enthusiasm to find another book study in our August professional development plans. However, I was truly surprised by how many strategies apply to music education at all levels. If you are looking to freshen your approach to instruction, building relationships, or even systemic overhaul of your practice, this book is excellent.

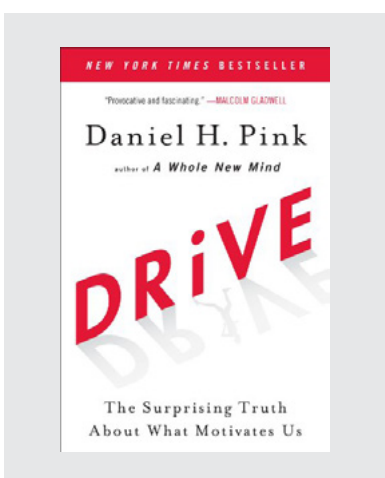
- Delynne West



Emotional Poverty by Ruby Payne

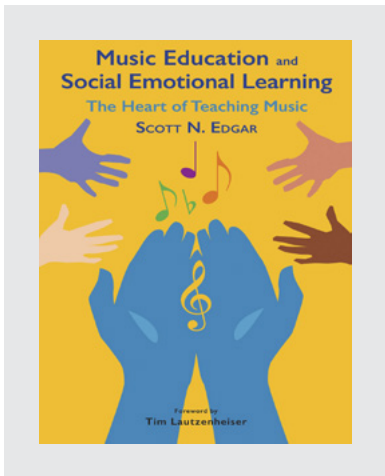
Have you noticed an uptick in angry or anxious students in your classroom? Dr. Payne moves her focus to emotions and how to address them in any classroom. From delving into the causes of disruptive behavior, to calming techniques, to motivating compassionate behaviors, you will find strategies that are easy to incorporate. I have used several of the calming strategies in the book and continue to be amazed at how well they work to disengage the brain from its emotional response.

- Delynne West



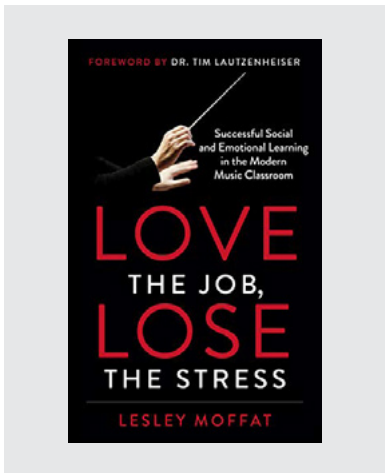
Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us by Daniel Pink

Most people believe that the best way to motivate is with rewards like money—the carrot-and-stick approach. That’s a mistake, says Daniel H. Pink (author of *To Sell Is Human: The Surprising Truth About Motivating Others*). In this provocative and persuasive new book, he asserts that the secret to high performance and satisfaction—at work, at school, and at home—is the deeply human need to direct our own lives, to learn and create new things, and to do better by ourselves and our world. Drawing on four decades of scientific research on human motivation, Pink exposes the mismatch between what science knows and what business does—and how that affects every aspect of life. He examines the three elements of true motivation—autonomy, mastery, and purpose—and offers smart and surprising techniques for putting these into action in a unique book that will change how we think and transform how we live. (Amazon)



Music Education and Social Emotional Learning **by Scott N. Edgar**

Music educators are in a prime position to help students become socially and emotionally competent while at the same time develop excellent musicianship. For every child to be successful in the music classroom, teachers need to be aware of the whole student. How do music educators create success when students every day struggle with social awareness, bullying, communication, problem solving, and other challenges? This pioneering book by Scott Edgar addresses how music educators can utilize Social Emotional Learning (SEL) to maximize learning in the choral, instrumental, and general music classroom at all levels, and at the same time support a student's social and emotional growth. Foreword by Tim Lautzenheiser. (GIA)



Love the Job, Lose the Stress **by Lesley Moffat**

Between zero period jazz band, evening concerts, pep band events, trips, fundraising, and meetings, the life of a high school band director is never dull. There's great joy to be had as you shape young musicians into awesome human beings, but there's also a price to pay when you love doing it so much that your life's work becomes all-consuming. How do you meet your students' needs and still have a life of your own—without being so exhausted that you can't enjoy it?

Author and teacher Lesley Moffat has over thirty years of experience as a high school band director and mother of three, and knows all too well the struggles of balancing the “real life” with the challenges of the classroom. Love the Job, Lose the Stress is the ultimate guide for band directors who want to:

1. Up-level your program now
2. Build a successful and sustainable music program that is respected in your school and community
3. Serve students through the magic of music education
4. Make band a place where every student feels welcome and safe to be themselves
5. Find a better balance between work and family life

It's time to learn how to reach your goals faster with real and practical advice. Love the Job, Lose the Stress is a band director's guide to becoming the teacher you dream of being. (James Morgan Publishing)

It's time to get in!

Do you have a new job?

Do you need help that only another music educator can provide?

Do you want to talk about what you have learned, hard-won lessons you have learned? (Regards to Hamilton)



Then SYNC is for you!

In June mentors and mentees will be paired, along with a schedule of topics to be covered throughout the year. For more information, scan the codes below, visit our website: Arkmea.org, or contact Delynne West: dwest@bryantschools.org. Register today!

Our initiative



I want to join!



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February 11, 2022

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Women's Chorus

Woodwind

DEGREES

Bachelor of Arts in Music

Bachelor of Music Education (Vocal, Instrumental)

Scholarships are available for music and non-music majors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

*Auditions this year will be live on campus; however, should you need alternative methods, please contact the music office via the contact information below.

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