

President- Elect



Mr. Danny Eye, is currently in his 18th year of education and his 13th year as Director of Bands at West Central in Hartford, SD. His duties include directing the High School Concert Band, Marching Band, Pep Band, Jazz Band, Drumline, Percussion Ensemble, Musical Pit, Piano/Guitar class, conducting three middle school bands, and individual lessons.

He earned his Bachelor in Music Education from South Dakota State University in Brookings, his Master of Arts Degree in Education from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, and his Master of Music Education from Northern State University in Aberdeen.

Mr. Eye was honored as the West Central Teacher of the Year during the 2016-2017 school year. In 2018, the National Band Association awarded him the Citation of Excellence for outstanding contributions to bands and band music. Mr. Eye was recently named the 2020-2021 National Federation of State High Schools Association (NFHS) Outstanding Music Educator for the state of South Dakota. West Central has received the Outstanding Communities for Music Education each of the past three years. He is proud to be a member

of the educational team for both Vic Firth & Zildjian, along with being an [exclusive artist](#) with Yamaha instruments. Currently, Mr. Eye is the Middle School All-State Band Chairperson for SDMEA.

Orchestra Chair Elect



Laura Wilsey is a Rapid City native who is currently in her 4th year of teaching in the Watertown School District. She teaches high school as well as 5th and 6th grade orchestra. Laura earned her Music Education degree from Augustana University in Sioux Falls. Her main instrument is viola and she is a member of the SDSU community orchestra and is an import player for the Aberdeen Civic Symphony. When she is not teaching, Laura enjoys crafting, biking, learning ukulele, and spending time with friends and family.

Elementary Honor Choir Chair-Elect



Tabitha Schmidt is from Huron, SD and in her 2nd year teaching in the Clark School District. She was the 5-12 Band director her first year, and now teaches PK-5th w/ 5th Band. She has also taken on the extra duties of being the Dance Team Coach, All School Play Director, and was part-time custodian at the Elementary for some time. Schmidt has also started a jazz band, given piano lessons, and worked for the after-school program. She will be changing her name this summer as she is getting married, and becoming Mrs. Unruh! She is excited to learn more about the position, and how she can take on a leadership role for the Elementary choirs.

DEIA Chair



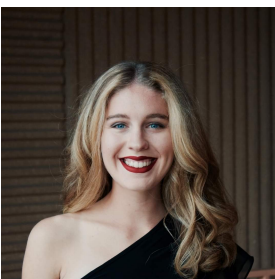
Dr. Dave Berberick is currently in his eighth year as Associate Professor and Director of Bands at Black Hills State University. He conducts the BHSU Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, maintains a percussion studio, and teaches numerous music courses. Berberick is an active adjudicator, clinician, performer, and guest conductor in numerous states. His research interests concern alternative music education programs in schools as complementary to existing music programs. He has over ten years of experience in teaching band to grades five through twelve in Minnesota and Illinois. Dr. Berberick currently lives in Spearfish, South Dakota, and enjoys spending time with his wife Megan and children Ashlyn, Ava, Isaac, and Emmett.

Middle School Choral/General Music Chair



Julie Fastnacht currently teaches general music and vocal instructor K-12 in the Wessington Springs School District. This is her 23rd year of teaching choir and her 11th year teaching K-12 in South Dakota. Her career as a music teacher started in Washington State where she taught choir (MS and HS) in the White River School District in Buckley, Washington. While in Washington she held many hats, she was ASB advisor, director of Musicals, chairperson of regional large group vocal contests and leadership instructor. Moving to South Dakota was a huge step for her and her family and a large career adjustment as she went from teaching in a large school system to a very small country school in Kimball, South Dakota. She was privileged to

work at Kimball her first year in South Dakota and then landed a job in Wessington Springs where she resides on the farm with her husband Shane Fastnacht. In 2018 Julie Fastnacht was awarded "Teacher of the year," by the Wessington Springs school district. Julie is thrilled to be teaching in South Dakota and describes her position as a "dream gig," being able to teach all ages K-12. Her reason for wanting a position on the board is to represent the small country schools in South Dakota and is passionate about wanting to hold her first leadership position in South Dakota. Julie now feels like she has her feet wet in South Dakota and has some new ideas to bring to the table. Julie and her husband Shane have 4 sons, Tyler, Troy, Blake and Brett.



Lauren Kattner is an active music educator and native of Huron, SD. She currently teaches 6-8 Vocal Music at Harrisburg North Middle School in Sioux Falls, SD. In addition to teaching choir, Lauren also instructs 2 middle school show choirs, high school show choir band, middle school musical theater, and music directs the Summer Performing Arts ensembles for Harrisburg.

Outside of Harrisburg, she is a Music Director and Choreographer for the Dakota Academy of Performing Arts and maintains a comprehensive private vocal studio.

In her free time she loves to bake goodies, attend musicals, and play the piano.