Election Day Professional Development Workshop

East Hartford High School

Tuesday November 4, 2025

8:30am-3pm

Schedule

	Auditorium	Band Room	Choir Room	180/Music Tech Room
	Check In - Auditorium Lobby - Refreshments Available			
8:30-9am	Keynote			
9-10am	Movement Development in Young Children	Establishing and Reinforcing Proper Playing Technique in Beginning Upper and Lower String Players *Bring your instrument*	Props to You: Tools to Encourage Physical Engagement in Choir	Engagement: Creating Student-Centered Ensembles
10-11am	Songwriting In The Music Classroom: Generating Repertoire and Voice Builders for the classroom	Your Percussion Section: Taming the Beast	Why Executive Functioning and Ensemble Rehearsal Go Hand in Hand *Bring your instrument*	Engaging Music Technology Ideas for Middle & High School
11am-12pm	String Roundtable	Instrumental Roundtable	Choir roundtable	General Music roundtable
12-1pm	*Lunch&Raffles - Cafe - Catering by Panera*			
1-2pm	I've Been Asked To Teach Preschool! Preschool songs, dances & methods (Kindergarten approved too!)	String Orchestra Repertoire Reading Session *Bring your instrument*	Middle School Think Tank	"Soundtrap: The Best DAW for Education"
2-3pm	The Power Of Play	Teaching Jazz Improvisation to Beginners *Bring your instrument*	ADHD in the Music Room	"Podcasting the Voice of Your Students"

8-8:30am

Check In

Check in, get your name tag, enter the raffles, and enjoy coffee and light breakfast items!

8:30-9am

Auditorium

Keynote Speaker - Wayne Splettstoeszer

Wayne Splettstoeszer is in his 31st year of music education and serves as Director of Instrumental Music and Music Technology at Torrington High School (CT). His nationally recognized program integrates technology across the music curriculum and has influenced schools worldwide. A frequent presenter and award-winning educator, Wayne was a 2023 GRAMMY Music Educator Award Semifinalist and has been endorsed by Soundtree/Korg Corporation and Jupiter/KHS.

9-10am

Auditorium

Movement Development in Young Children - Lillie Feierabend

Movement is an integral part of being musical. Think of your favorite activity in the music classroom; chances are there is some type of movement to enhance the experience. This is no surprise; children learn best when they are able to use their bodies. The movement component is worthy of the same explicit and intentional instruction that we devote to the tonal and rhythmic goals of our curriculum. When we give the same attention to sequencing movement, we are better able to nurture the whole child in our quest to help them become musical. Participants will be introduced to strategies and techniques that will enhance the movement component in a music classroom. Wear your dancing shoes, this session will involve participants in our rich folk music repertoire of songs, singing games, finger plays and action songs..

Band Room

Establishing and Reinforcing Proper Playing Technique in Beginning Upper and Lower String Players - Dana Saccomano

This session will focus on strategies for establishing proper left and right hand technique in upper and lower string players, the importance of reinforcing this technique, and ideas for how to do just that on a daily basis in the beginning/early Orchestra classroom.

Choir Room

Props to You: Tools to Encourage Physical Engagement in Choir - Steven Oliveri

This session will introduce choral educators to a variety of tools and physical cues to enhance students' awareness of various muscle groups particularly those involved with posture, respiration, resonance, and musical phrasing. This session will be hands-on and participants will have the opportunity to experiment with the materials presented and experience the effects on their own singing.

Room 180

Engagement: Creating Student-Centered Ensembles - Anthony Susi

This session will explain how to shift the onus from the director of any ensemble to its members,

where it belongs. Topics will include how to delegate responsibilities to the students for Rehearsal, Assessments and Recruitment/Retention. Increased engagement through self-directed learning will also minimize rehearsal management issues.

10-11am

Auditorium

Songwriting In The Music Classroom: Generating Repertoire and Voice Builders for the classroom - Destiny Cooper

This session will go over where to begin when using Songwriting as a tool in the choral classroom. This can be used to give your warm-ups variety, show understanding of musicianship concepts and begin a songwriting project with students to create an original piece that is concert-ready. We will cover what "Day 1" looks like when starting this process in addition to tackling the challenges you might come across when working with your group. Even if you decide not to create a song for performance, My goal is for you to leave with activities you can incorporate in your classes the next day and discover your students untapped creativity through songwriting.

Band Room

Your Percussion Section: Taming the Beast - Tom Murphy

As a percussion specialist / band director for 36 years, I will suggest some ways to tame your percussion section. Classroom Management, Purchasing, and Equipment Maintenance will be the topics.

Choir Room

Why Executive Functioning and Ensemble Rehearsal Go Hand in Hand - Jim Buchta

Participants are asked to bring their wind or string instrument, and Jim Buchta, a recently retired band teacher after 36 years, will share how he uses executive functioning with his Build the Band method book. Teachers will be empowered to use strategies immediately, students will be more engaged and more importantly develop rapidly improved rehearsal and musical skills in a way that makes sense to the young musician.

Room 180

Engaging Music Technology Ideas for Middle & High School - Wayne Splettstoeszer

Engaging Music Technology Ideas for Middle and High School showcases creative ways to integrate technology into your music classroom. Explore how tools like Soundtrap & Canva can empower students to compose, collaborate, and produce music. Learn how to guide students in podcast creation, remixing popular tracks, and using launchpads for live performance projects. Discover the art of sampling and how it can be used to teach music history, creativity, and production techniques. This session will provide practical lesson ideas, accessible tools, and strategies to engage students of all skill levels, fostering creativity and excitement in your music technology curriculum

11am-12pm

Discipline Specific Roundtables

Chat with colleagues about current trends and challenges in your teaching area!

12-1pm

Lunch

Keep the conversations from the roundtables going while you eat lunch! Catering from Panera is provided. We will also announce the raffle winners during lunch.

1-2pm

Auditorium

I've Been Asked To Teach Preschool! Preschool songs, dances & methods (Kindergarten approved too!) - Colleen Bretthauer

Come to this active session to learn about preschool music methods, songs, dances, and activities for learning! This session will include video of preschool music classes including classes for half day and full day, broken down by three, four & five year old children. Even if you don't teach this grade level, come and learn about this fast growing public school initiative. Activities will be applicable to kindergarten.

Band Room

String Orchestra Repertoire Reading Session - Dana Saccomano

Participants will read through various levels of string orchestra repertoire. Selections will include works by women and underrepresented composers.

Choir Room

Middle School Think Tank - Lauren Lambert

Join presenter Lauren Torres Lambert as she leads attendees through a few tried and true warm ups, activities, and repertoire that have been successful with her middle school choir. Participants are encouraged to bring some of their favorite activities to share as well. No pressure to lead the group, but this will be an opportunity to collaborate with other middle school colleagues and bounce ideas off of each other in an encouraging and supportive way. All activities shared will be collected and distributed to participants after the session. If you know you'd like to share something in advance please send it to prof-dev@cmea.org or add it to this collaborative folder!

Room 180

"Soundtrap: The Best DAW for Education" - Wayne Splettstoeszer

"Soundtrap: The Best DAW for Education" delves into how Soundtrap supports music learning with unique features like real-time collaboration and built-in translation tools. This session will explore how students can easily work together from anywhere, breaking language barriers with automatic translation for seamless global collaboration. You'll learn about intuitive tools like loops, virtual instruments, and audio recording that make music production accessible to all students. Soundtrap's compatibility with various devices and integration with educational platforms make it perfect for diverse classrooms. Discover how this DAW can inspire creativity, improve communication, and transform your music education experience.

2-3pm

Auditorium

The Power Of Play - Karla McClain

Looking for a way to break up a long rehearsal block? Need some new ideas to engage your students in making music in a fun way? Participants will learn different types of play-based strategies that will engage students in musical learning while building community. This is a hands-on session, so come ready to have fun and play!.

Band Room

Teaching Jazz Improvisation to Beginners - Brandt Schneider

We will offer methods of running improvisation rehearsals in your jazz (or whatever!) rehearsals for absolute beginners. Focus on chord identification, Blues Changes, and arpeggio and scale work. I encourage you to bring a horn (even better if its a "2nd" instrument) to participate. We will play 90% of this session

Choir Room

ADHD in the Music Room - Emily Marquardt-Smith

Explore how Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) affects learning and behavior, especially in creative settings like choir, band, or music class. You will learn specific research-based strategies to support your students with ADHD that you can implement into your classroom the next day

Room 180

"Podcasting the Voice of Your Students" - Wayne Splettstoeszer

"Podcasting the Voice of Your Students" explores the impact of giving students a voice through podcasting. I'll share what I discovered about how podcasting empowers students, boosting their confidence and communication skills. The session highlights real examples of how students found their voice, learned to express ideas clearly, and engaged in collaborative storytelling. Podcasting also improved their listening skills and encouraged critical thinking. You'll learn practical tips for starting a podcast with your students, using accessible tools and methods that enhance creativity and engagement. This session will inspire you to harness podcasting for impactful student growth.

Please complete the workshop survey to give us your feedback!