



Election Day Professional Development Workshop

East Hartford High School

Tuesday November 4, 2025

8:30am-3pm

[Session List](#)

Additional sessions are being added - check back for new info!

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
"Podcasting the Voice of Your Students"	"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.	Wayne Spletstoeszer

"Soundtrap: The Best DAW for Education"	"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.	Wayne Spletstoeszer
ADHD in the Music Room	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.	Emily Marquardt-Smith
Engagement: Creating Student-Centered Ensembles	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.	Anthony Susi

Engaging Music Technology Ideas for Middle & High School	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.	Wayne Splettstoeszer
Establishing and Reinforcing Proper Playing Technique in Beginning Upper and Lower String Players	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.	Dana Saccomano
I've Been Asked To Teach Preschool! Preschool songs, dances & methods (Kindergarten approved too!)	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.	Colleen Bretthauer

Middle School Think Tank	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 HERE!	Lauren Lambert
Movement Development in Young Children	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.	Lillie Feierabend

Props to You: Tools to Encourage Physical Engagement in Choir	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.	Steven Oliveri
Songwriting In The Music Classroom: Generating Repertoire and Voice Builders for the classroom	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.	Destiny Cooper
String Orchestra Repertoire Reading Session	Participants will read through various levels of string orchestra repertoire. Selections will include works by women and underrepresented composers.	Dana Saccomano
Teaching Jazz Improvisation to Beginners	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.	Brandt Schneider

The Power of Play	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!	Karla McClain
Why Executive Functioning and Ensemble Rehearsal Go Hand in Hand	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.	Jim Buchta
Your Percussion Section: Taming the Beast	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.	Tom Murphy