

Ryan Finn is currently an Assistant Principal at Los Alamos High School where he also serves as the school's Activities Director. In this position he leads the Topper Freshman Academy, the Activities office, oversees the English Dept, Career & Tech Dept, World Languages Dept, manages discipline and attendance for 9th & 10th graders, oversees Duane Smith Auditorium, and helps to provide the best educational environment for all students at the school.

For 18 years, Mr. Finn taught Band & Orchestra, the most recent 11 years being in Los Alamos, New Mexico where he was a Band Director at Los Alamos Middle School & High School, directing concert bands, jazz bands, and the LAHS Topper Marching Band. He is also the Director of Jazz for the Santa Fe Youth Symphony Association where he runs the "Jazz Project" program in Santa Fe and Los Alamos. Ryan performs locally with a number of jazz and blues bands on trombone and leads a jazz group that performs many of his original compositions, most of which are in Caribbean and Latin American styles.

In January 2020 Ryan was awarded the NMMEA Music Educator of the Year Award and in January 2021 he had the distinct honor of leading one of the NMMEA All-State Jazz Bands. Currently, Ryan serves as the Vice President of Jazz for the NM Music Educators Association and is working statewide to help create an educational space and priority for jazz and improvisational music.

Before joining the SFYSA team as Director of Jazz, Ryan directed the Youth Philharmonic for SFYSA, helping to grow the program over a four year period. During the "COVID" school year, he was instrumental in creating a virtual concert series including a 405-student nation-wide combined youth orchestra presentation.

Ryan received a Bachelors of Music Education in 2004 from Loyola University - New Orleans and a Masters of Educational Leadership in 2018 from New Mexico Highlands University. He regularly clinics middle school and high school bands from around the state and his own groups regularly receive Superior ratings at district festivals and the NM State Contest.

Before returning to New Mexico in 2012, Ryan taught band, orchestra, jazz, and music theory for seven years at the St. Lucia of Music on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia. He also performed with many well known Caribbean musicians such as Luther Francois, Barbara Cadet, Alison Marquis, Ronald 'Boo' Hinkson, and Rob 'Zi' Taylor. While in St. Lucia, Ryan arranged and composed in a variety of local folk styles and has a portfolio of over 30 compositions. Some of these pieces include full symphonic works, musicals, jazz band charts, concert band arrangements, and more.

In his free time, Ryan can be found hiking and skiing around Northern New Mexico with his wife Ellen, their 3 children, and their dog.

[LINK](#) to headshots.