

Adam Cunningham is an accomplished music educator with nearly two decades of experience teaching instrumental and vocal music in Utah's public schools. He is recognized for his dedication to student excellence, program development, and leadership within the state's music education community.

Mr. Cunningham graduated cum laude from Utah Valley University in 2009, earning a Bachelor of Science in Music Education. During his studies, he trained extensively as a clarinetist under the instruction of Wayne Erickson, an experience that helped shape both his musicianship and his instructional philosophy. He completed his student teaching at American Fork High School, where he worked closely with former band director John Miller, gaining valuable experience in large ensemble instruction, program organization, and performance preparation.

Following graduation, Mr. Cunningham began his teaching career at Union High School in Roosevelt, Utah, where he taught both Band and Orchestra for two years. He then joined Helper Middle School, serving as the band and choir educator for six years, building strong foundational programs that emphasized musical literacy, ensemble performance, and student engagement. During those years 50-70% of the student body was involved in band or choir.

For the past nine years, Mr. Cunningham has taught at Carbon High School, where he has made a lasting impact on the music department. During his tenure, he has led a wide range of ensembles, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Marching Band, and Percussion Ensembles. Under his direction, Carbon High School's Concert Bands and Jazz Bands have qualified for and performed at State festivals for the first time since 2006, marking a significant milestone in the program's history. Central to Mr. Cunningham's philosophy is fostering a positive cultural environment in which students can enjoy meaningful musical experiences while developing as both musicians and student leaders. Each year, approximately 10% of the band consists of first-year students, and experienced members eagerly take on mentorship roles to support their growth. This culture of mentorship and engagement is reflected in the program's expansion, most notably in the Marching Band, which has grown from 25 students ten years ago to more than 90 students in the most recent season.

Mr. Cunningham is especially noted for helping to restart the school's marching band program. He helped bring back the competitive Marching Band to Carbon High School ten years ago, and the ensemble has since experienced sustained success. Over the last five years, the marching band has finished third place or better at state competitions, including two state championships in the 3A classification. The ensemble's excellence has extended beyond state borders, earning an invitation to perform in the 2025 National Veterans Day Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

In addition to competitive success, Mr. Cunningham has led student ensembles on performance trips to California, where both the Concert Band and Jazz Band have represented Carbon High School. He currently serves the broader music education community as a member of the Marching Band Committee representing Class 3A and the UMEA Band Committee, contributing to the advancement of music education statewide.