

From the Board

Chico Portillo, 2014-15 TBA Treasurer

“The Man Who Does Not Read Has No Advantage Over the Man Who Cannot Read.” – Mark Twain

I recently came across this quote at one of our middle schools. It is printed on a poster and hangs in the main hallway of the school. Although the quote is from 1914, it is new to me. Seeing it made me stop and wonder about the responsibility we have to insure literacy in our schools and how it applies to music education. Are we doing a good job of teaching our music students how to read quality literature? How well are we doing in teaching them how to write and/or notate music?

I feel great about the answer to the first question. We teach music performance very well. We continue to raise the level of expectation with regard to the literature our students

ultimately perform. The assessment and feedback that we receive in the UIL sightreading room indicate the ability at which our students can demonstrate an understanding of how to read and perform music. Keep up the outstanding work!

The second question regarding writing music is an area where I have no idea how we are doing. Writing music is not outwardly assessed like the reading component. We must teach these writing skills, as it is a part of our state curriculum. The ability for students to demonstrate

comprehension through written notation is a valuable tool for a teacher. It is a window into the student’s mind allowing us to see what they understand and can communicate. Let’s keep up the effort in teaching the elements of writing music, and share ideas with each other as to the many approaches that are used in teaching these valuable skills.

I look forward to seeing you soon, and hope that you have a wonderful Holiday Season!



TBA Professional Development Outreach Program

Sponsored by:



**Clarinet Fundamentals: How to Provide
Definitive Instruction To Your Clarinet Students**

Chapel Hill High School • Clinician: Dr. Christopher Ayer

Saturday, January 17, 2015 • 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.