

Illinois Music Educators Association State Conference
Thursday, January 25, 2013, 9:00am, Civic Center 405/406, Peoria, IL
Presented by Joanne May, Elmhurst College

Session title: Integrating Homeschoolers into Your Program: The Promise and the Challenge

Abstract: Develop awareness about the needs and desires of the growing home school population, and learn how to boost your program while addressing relevant issues such as participation, fees, expectations, resources, grading, and partnering with parents.

Outline

- I. Background of the homeschool movement in the US – facts and figures
 - A. NCES (Nt'l Center for Education Statistics) Reports from the U.S. Department of Education – 1999, 2003, 2007, 2009, current
 - B. Growth in numbers of homeschoolers
 - C. Reasons why families homeschool their children
 - D. Characteristics of homeschool families
 1. Race/Ethnicity
 2. Sex of children
 3. Number of children
 4. Number of parents in the home and in the workforce
 5. Household income
 6. Parents' education

- II. Homeschoolers' participation in school music programs
 - A. NAfME's position on homeschoolers participating in public school music programs
 1. Policy concerns
 2. The music educator's role
 3. Guidelines
 - B. Recruiting homeschool students into your program
 1. The benefit of higher enrollment
 2. Taxpayer district boundaries
 3. School/school board permissions
 4. Recruiting methods
 5. Connecting with homeschool organizations
 6. Commitment/motivation of homeschoolers

7. Taking advantage of parental leadership
- C. Setting expectations
 1. Attendance
 2. Grading
 3. Behavior
 4. Participation in groups with limited enrollment
 5. Participation in extracurricular groups
 6. Use of resources (building space, instruments, technology, etc.)
- III. Other issues
- A. Becoming a mentor to homeschool families and groups
 - B. Eligibility for festivals, contests, and competitions
 - C. Fees
 - D. Practicing
 - E. College admissions
 - F. Resources
 1. Programs that can supplement your homeschoolers' quest (youth symphonies, community music programs, library programs, summer camps, adult music instruction, etc.)
 2. Organizations that can offer support
 3. Software/technology available for independent learners
 4. Websites for homeschoolers
 5. Private teacher list

Below are postings on the NAFME website that speak to some of the issues concerning music instruction for homeschoolers...

John

"As a veteran band director of 35 years public school, 1 year university interim, 8 years private school, 5 more years university adjunct, I am glad to be directing a successful band program for 48 home-schooled students in three levels of achievement: beginning, intermediate, and advanced. I welcome your comments and questions."

Eugene

"I'm a public school teacher, who Homeschooled my children from 3rd thru 8th. The public school in my district wasn't providing for the needs of my children. Homeschool parents are taxpayers and their children should be allowed to participate in the local school music program."

Ann Marie

"I do not like the idea of offering public school curricula "cafeteria style" where people can pick and choose what portions they want to consume. My school music program is a community that extends beyond the walls of my classroom and before and after my third period class. Students coming in just for "band class" miss out on the schoolwide pride and connections our group fosters. Parents selecting only one portion of the day for their children are not supporting the school philosophically or monetarily."

Jen

"Monetarily? I beg to differ as homeschooling parents are tax payers as well and our tax dollars pay for the school system just as yours do. The big difference is that we aren't using all that we are paying for as we are doing the job ourselves at home. I teach a homeschool choir so we don't need the public school system in my area for our chorus but my students deserve the opportunity to audition for the community honor choir the public and private schools kids are allowed to participate in but we are locked out. I have very talented students who excel academically and should be given the opportunity to audition like anyone else."

Cheryl

"As a private instructor who occasionally has home-schooled students, I agree they are often the most motivated and polite students I encounter. They are allowed to participate in school band at the director's option, and I do insist they enroll in the school they would be attending, at least for junior high. In high school, the district allows for variances, so I do, too."

Linda

"Homeschooling has long been a part of our area. The district has a rule which states that students not enrolled in the school may not participate in any activities sponsored by district. It is true that parents are often taxpayers, but the school does not receive aid for those children since they are not enrolled. They usually are very ready and motivated with respectful manners and would be assets to the school band/chorus/sports. MENC's suggestions listed in this article are excellent--if they are allowed to play in the band then following these ideas is great for dealing with the homeschool parents/children."