

# Lexington High School

"Home of the Bulldogs"

David McLain  
*High School Principal*

Dear OAAE Board,

I wanted to thank you for the wonderful opportunity to attend the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago through your incredibly generous grant program. This was my second year to attend the clinic and I learned just as much, if not more from my second trip. My wife and I are both teachers, and normally have trouble travelling across the country to the larger conferences and clinics. The OAAE travel grant program has enriched my career tremendously and has given me the chance to become a better teacher and well-rounded musician.

I attended as many clinics as possible and I learned wonderful techniques and methods to advance my abilities as a teacher. I attended several sessions on ways to help develop student leadership and communication. I attended a session designed around increasing tuning awareness for young clarinet players. I gained new insight on ways to become a more impactful teacher through attitude, behavior, and demonstration. One of the clinics was an overview of the "Tuning for Wind Instruments" book by Jagow that enhanced my understanding of tuning tendencies and how to help my student's understanding of this concept as well. I learned a great deal about selecting music that will better fit my ensemble and how to tailor the music to our group strengths and how to shore up our weaknesses. I also attended several wonderful concerts and heard outstanding new literature to expand my musical library and horizons, and had a chance to hear Doc Severinsen play.

I am so thankful that I was able to use this grant to attend this world-renowned clinic. I truly believe I will be able to successfully integrate the things I learned into my class lesson plans and rehearsals. I also feel that my experience will benefit all of my students whether they are in middle school or high school.

Again, thank you so much for your generosity and for considering me for this grant opportunity. I would not have been able to go if not for your program. I look forward to bringing the joy and passion of music education back to my classroom, and this clinic will have an extremely positive impact on my students. Professional development is of utmost importance to me as I continually tell my students that learning should never stop, no matter how old you are. I am glad to have had this opportunity. Thank you again for your willingness to help the educators of our state, and for your dedication to the arts.

Sincerely,  
David Craig, Director of Bands  
Lexington Public Schools

