

Steve Shanley

Inducted into the *Hall of Fame* in 2013



Steve Shanley began his teaching career in 2000 as the orchestra director at Franklin Middle School, and in 2001, he joined Jim Miller to lead the Washington High School band program. Over the next 10 years, the WHS concert, jazz, and marching bands enjoyed an unprecedented period of growth and success. Five WHS ensembles performed at the prestigious Iowa Bandmasters Association conference, more than any other school in Iowa during that time. The Revolutionists were the only 4A jazz band in the state to place in the top eight at the Iowa Jazz Championships every year from 2002 through 2011, and the Java and Jazz guest artist program was established. The Concert Band earned their first ever Division I ratings at State Large Group Festival, and the Warrior Marching Band was consistently one of the top five in the state. During this period, over 75 band students were selected for the All-State Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Band.

In addition to his work with the band program, Shanley collaborated with other WHS performing arts directors and activities. He co-directed Celebration (show choir) with Mike Cervantes, assisted Matthew Armstrong with A Slice of Jazz (jazz choir), teamed with Cervantes and Bill Lammers for many memorable musical productions, and at times conducted the string and full orchestras. Advanced Placement Music Theory enrollment and test scores increased dramatically after he began teaching it in 2003.

Shanley owes much of his professional success to the support he received from WHS students, parents, Principal Ralph Plagman, and performing arts directors. He credits his successful arranging career (over 1,000 arrangements performed worldwide) to early opportunities writing for WHS instrumental and vocal ensembles. He was a founding organizer of the Corridor Jazz Project and the founding president of the Jazz Educators of Iowa. In 2011, Shanley made the difficult decision to leave WHS, and he accepted a position at Coe College, overseeing the music education and jazz studies programs. During that year he was also named conductor of the Cedar Rapids Municipal Band and chair of the Iowa Jazz Championships. Shanley continues his active career as an arranger, guest conductor, adjudicator, consultant, and keyboard performer.