



## Woodstock Community Unit School District 200

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Magazine names District 200 orchestra director among nation's Top 50 music teachers**

Lyndra Bastian, orchestra director at Woodstock High School and Creekside Middle School, was named in a national publication recognizing music educators who make a transformative impact on students' lives.

Bastian represented Illinois in "50 Music Teachers Who Make a Difference" in the *School Band and Orchestra* + magazine's annual feature, which was published in December.

She said she was humbled by the honor. "When I was informed that I had been selected for this, I was both shocked and deeply grateful to those who felt I was worthy of being nominated."

Bastian, who has taught in Woodstock Community Unit School District 200 since 2013, was honored for her innovative approach to music education and her commitment to creating meaningful, inclusive musical experiences for her students.

"My proudest moments come from the opportunities I've been able to create for my students," Bastian said in the Q&A style article.

From creating student opportunities to perform with renowned, professional string groups to establishing the special education orchestra United Sound, Bastian has consistently sought to expand her students' horizons and build their confidence.

Bastian's teaching philosophy centers on using music as a powerful tool for connection and understanding. "Music transcends barriers and fosters connection," she explained. Her classroom, which she affectionately describes as a "large, odd family," prioritizes respect, inclusivity, and personal growth.

Throughout her career, Bastian has focused on creating a supportive environment where students feel valued and heard. Many of her former students maintain connections with her, a testament to the lasting impact of her approach to music education.

Art Vallicelli, principal at Woodstock High School, said he and his colleagues are proud to work with Bastian and were not surprised by the recognition.

"Ms. Bastian brings such a passion to our growing orchestra program leading students to pursue their dreams and enriching their middle and high school experiences," he said.