



Woodstock Community Unit School District 200

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Woodstock High School, Creekside Middle School Orchestra Director named McHenry County Educator of the Year

The McHenry County Regional Office of Education has named Lyndra Bastian, orchestra director at both Creekside Middle School and Woodstock High School, as the 2025 McHenry County Educator of the Year.

The award was presented on May 10, marking the second consecutive year that a D200 educator has received this prestigious honor. Creekside Middle School math teacher Shanon Laidig earned the designation last year.

Every day, Bastian ignites passion for music by example, through her teaching and by creating exceptional opportunities for student musicians. While Bastian herself was shocked, her selection comes as no surprise to her students, their parents, and her colleagues throughout District 200.

"I truly didn't expect to be considered — especially with over 90 outstanding educators nominated at this event. Just being in their company felt like a tremendous honor in itself," Bastian said. "I'm deeply humbled and sincerely grateful. To follow in the footsteps of such an amazing D200 educator like Mrs. Laidig makes this recognition even more meaningful."

Bastian has been key in growing the District 200 orchestra program to include nearly 700 students. Her leadership has brought award-winning conductors, composers, and musicians to perform with students, and she will be among the hosts of a Woodstock High School student musician trip to Austria this summer.

Mike Moan, superintendent of Woodstock Community Unit School District 200, praised the selection: "She's a dynamic educator who is always pushing our students toward greatness both as musicians and as human beings.

"Our school communities are so fortunate to benefit from Lyndra Bastian's passion for students and for music. Orchestra is one of the most popular programs across District 200, and Lyndra and her colleagues are directly responsible for that success."

Diana Hartmann, superintendent of the McHenry County Regional Office of Education, highlighted several factors that contributed to Bastian's recognition:

"Lyndra is not only extremely knowledgeable in her field, but she has also helped build a very large program. She exposes students to many events and extracurricular activities. Her guidance has facilitated students with their next steps into college, and many have gone on with a music scholarship."