

FLORIDA

Name: John Seth
School: Flagler Palm
Coast High School



City/State: Palm Coast, Florida
Total Years Teaching: 13 years
**Number of Students in Instrumental/
Music Program:** 220

What is your proudest moment as an educator?

I am proud to be a part of the student's development. As an educator it is enjoyable to see the students grow and flourish as young people, students, leaders and musicians. As the students mature, they learn that it is no longer about them but it is about the group they are apart of. They learn how to motivate and encourage each other through constructive feedback or how to handle a situation with thoughtful decisionmaking. It is always wonderful to see a student who can independently use his or her own experiences to be a good problem solver. To all

the former students who are out making a difference in their communities or that have continued in music, I am very proud of you.

How do you hope to make a difference in your student's lives?

I hope to make a difference in my student's lives by giving them the tools to perform and experience great music. The study of any musical instrument takes much focus and discipline. Music is heard through the beauty of sound and how sound moves from one note to the next. The engagement of the students into the exploration of how the music moves is where the discovery takes place and it is through the performance of this discovery where the art of great music literature is experienced. It is through these unique experiences where lives are impacted and forever changed. This was passed down to me from Dr. Bobby Adams and can be read about in his book "Music from Skill to Art," GIA Publications, Inc.

What's the most important lesson that you try to teach your students?

My most influential professor taught me to, "be a person." Being a person means investing time to create the environment in which one lives. Every person has their own unique experiences to contribute to one another. When there is an atmosphere of respect and compassion, people are more open to listen, learn, share and be involved. No matter how small or large, it is critical to take responsibility and ownership in the community of which they are a part. Time should be spent developing relationships and contributing their time to help others. People should know when to listen and follow someone's lead or when to take the opportunity to step in when leadership is needed. The thoughtful engagement and participation into one's surroundings is of great significance.

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