

Candidate for Region IV Representative: Mandy Gunter



Biography:

Mandy Gunter is the music specialist at Sycamore Elementary in Gwinnett County, Georgia. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Georgia College and a Master of Education from Lesley University. She has attained Level 3 Orff certification and currently serves as Past President of the Atlanta Area Chapter.

CANIDATE FORUM

1. What do you see as the role of Orff Schulwerk in music education today?

I see Orff Schulwerk as a vital part of the music classroom. Using this approach, teachers can craft lessons to benefit each student and adhere to national, state, and local standards. The Orff Schulwerk approach is an engaging process that enhances a spiral music curriculum. Students naturally become better musicians by using the developmentally appropriate sequence of concepts and music-making. By using the Orff Schulwerk approach, music classrooms come alive with creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. I have found this approach gives me freedom to create lessons based on student needs and to tailor my teaching strategies for the concepts being taught. I also feel that Orff Schulwerk teachers benefit from tailoring ideas, creativity, and engagement based on students in their classrooms. I feel that through this process, students, teachers, and their communities become stronger places for music education.

2. What are your leadership strengths, and how do you think they would contribute to the work of AOSA and promoting Orff Schulwerk?

My leadership strengths include organization, effective communication, and leading by example. I love planning and organizing! I have been involved with many events and programs that need proper time management and delegation. Working with other teachers and committee members on a task is one of my favorite aspects of my teaching position and being Past President of the Atlanta Orff Chapter. Additionally,

every organization needs effective communication. I will communicate the goals and objectives of the endeavor that my group will be working to fulfill. Leading by example is one of the characteristics that define dynamic leaders. It is my goal to model examples of honesty, a positive attitude, and an appreciation of the work done by AOSA and its members.

3. What is the role of the National Board of Trustees as it relates to the general membership and how would you fulfill this role?

The National Board of Trustees is the backbone of AOSA. I see my role as a region representative to be a liaison between the National Board and local chapters. Our local chapters need a representative that will serve to communicate the goals of AOSA as well as lend a helping hand for any hardships that local chapters may experience. In addition, I will be a voice for local chapters for their requirements to be successful. As a member of the National Board of Trustees, I would be committed to fulfilling the goals and objectives of the National Board.

4. What is your vision for AOSA and Orff Schulwerk in the future?

My vision for AOSA is filled with success! AOSA already does a wonderful job providing teachers with necessary instructional practices for their classrooms. I would love to reach more students in college courses to start learning the Orff Schulwerk Approach. I also see a need for school administrators to become knowledgeable in the Orff Schulwerk process and value the learning taking place in the music education classroom. My focus would also be to continue to encourage more teachers to attend local workshops, become members of local chapters, and attend National Conference.