

The FMEA Summer Institute

The Florida Music Educators' Association is taking a proactive stance as change occurs in our educational world. The FMEA Board recognizes that change is inevitable, yet, reacting to each and every technological or educational change is exhausting for our members, and not always productive.

The FMEA Summer Institute grew out of a challenge to envision future trends and a decision to embrace and plan for change. Building on the thought that "a small group of thoughtful people could change the world," FMEA convened the first Summer Institute Class in 2007 with 25 participants selected for their forwarding thinking and leadership in music education.

The Institute is a multi-day training (3-4 days depending on the topics covered) involving a relatively small number of invited participants. Summer Institute application information can be found at www.flmusiced.org.

At the Summer Institute, participants consider the following questions:

- How do we teach with rigor and introduce new musical offerings to our students?
- How do we transform our traditional ensembles to be musically vibrant and relevant to a greater number of students and parents?
- How do we transform music education and change our perceptions to enable us to reach a broader cross section of students?

Participants leave the Institute with models that can enlarge the number of students engaged in music education courses, as well as a network to assist throughout the year. Summer Institute participants meet at the January FMEA Clinic-Conference to share their experiences, successes and initiatives.

Comments from Participants...

"A great group of minds; creative thoughts, ideas; quality examples of alternatives"

"The daily centered aspect of the conference was GREAT! There were the sessions, but each was followed by specific, directed discussion."

"Conceptualizing problems and problem solving followed by specific examples facilitated "ah-hah" moments."

"This was an absolutely fabulous opportunity to really think outside of the box with regarding different ideas concerning music curriculum."

"We should not be satisfied until 100% of our students are choosing to be in music!"

"Fabulous, deep-thinking, thought provoking experience."

"Gained incredible insights into many aspects of Music Education."

"I have a clearer picture of the "need" facing music education and ideas about possibilities for my school."

"There were many brilliant thinkers there to share ideas!"



"We are preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist, using technologies that haven't been invented yet to solve problems we don't yet recognize."

-former Secretary of Education, Richard Riley