

To: Dr. Weikle & The Board of Education
From: Becky Frangella, Associate Principal
Re: Ryan Budzinski-State of Illinois nomination for the NFHS Outstanding Music Educator
Date: April 16, 2025

On behalf of the IHSA Music Advisory Committee, I would like to inform you that our music director, Ryan Budzinski, has been selected as our state's nomination for the NFHS Outstanding Music Educator Award.

The National Federation of State High School Associations recognition of high school or college band, choral or orchestral directors, supervisors and adjudicators is awarded to individuals whose contributions have impacted high school activities programs. Nominees must exemplify the highest standards of ethical conduct and carry the endorsement of their respective state high school association. Significant and/or long-term contributions to interscholastic high school music activities will be an important criterion in evaluating candidates. The NFHS Music Award recipients will be selected at the annual NFHS Music Advisory Committee. One music educator may be nominated from each state for this honor. [LINK](#)



Ryan received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Illinois Wesleyan University in 2006 and is currently a graduate student at Illinois State University. Mr. Budzinski joined the Unit 5 band faculty in 2006. He conducts the Normal West High School Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Symphonic Winds, and Concert Winds. He is director of the Normal West Jazz Orchestra and head of instrumental jazz studies at Normal West. Ryan is co-director of the Normal Marching Band who most recently won 1st in Class 6A at the Illinois State Marching Band Championships! The band also received awards for high achievement in music and visual performances. Additionally, he teaches AP Music Theory and serves as the Normal West High School Music Department Building Chair. Mr. Budzinski has served as an adjudicator at events hosted by the Illinois High School Association, the Illinois Music Education Association, the Illinois Elementary School Association, and the Illinois Grade School Music Association. He recently completed a term as the Illinois Music Education Association District 3 Band

Co-Representative, and he also served on the Music Advisory Committee for the Illinois High School Association. Mr. Budzinski is a recipient of the National Band Association *Citation of Excellence*, and as a leader of the Normal Marching Band staff, he is a recipient of the Illinois State Board of Education *Those Who Excel* Award of Excellence.

As you can see, he is very deserving of this National Federation of High School Associations Music Award.

[Reminder: announce anyone with the recipient and allow for pictures]