



Supercharge the School Musical

by Paul K. Fox – DCMEA State Conference – Virtual Summer Session – July 9-10, 2020

A. Session Description

This presentation is an overview of strategies and best practices for building student and community support for the school musical or play, and improving appreciation of theater as an art form.

This session is for anyone who teaches music classes – indeed, you can sponsor a musical performance or short play as an after-school activity, summer camp, or a project within regularly scheduled choral ensemble(s), drama/dance courses, and/or general music class settings.

B. Targets

52 tips for adding pizzazz to your music program are offered as “food for thought,” hopefully providing a few “ah-ha” ideas to stimulate further brainstorming, build excitement, and foster greater creativity, participation, and public relations in the planning of your next production. We will examine non-linear problem solving – there are no “right or wrong” suggestions, just a host of approaches and activities to consider satisfying the following goals:

1. Encouragement of Larger Numbers of Student Participants
2. Student Leadership and Enrichment Activities
3. Involvement of the Parents and Community
4. Professionalism and Quality Productions
5. Real Promotion of the Show

C. Clinician

Paul K. Fox is the State Chair of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Council for Teacher Training, Recruitment, and Retention and PMEA State Retired Members’ Coordinator. He retired in 2013 as music teacher and Performing Arts Curriculum Leader from the Upper St. Clair School District (Pittsburgh, PA), having directed/produced 30 musicals, 28 plays, and 5 choral productions. Fox continues to present sessions at conferences and professional development workshops, and writes articles about music and music education, creativity in education, ethics, marketing professionalism and getting a job for collegiate members, and retirement resources for *PMEA Collegiate Communique*, *School Band & Orchestra Digital Newsletter*, *PMEA News*, *PMEA Retired Member Network eNEWS*, and the websites of Edutopia.org, MajoringinMusic.com, The Music Educator Blog at SmartMusic.com, and *Music in a Minuet* (NAfME) blog, archiving his work at the website <https://paulfox.blog/>.

D. Resources and Primary References

1. **Copy of slides, this handout, and “super packet”** (look for the DCMEA logo):
<https://paulfox.blog/becoming-a-music-educator/>
2. Clinician’s article “52 Creative Tips to Supercharge the School Musical” at
<https://paulfox.blog/2015/08/18/52-creative-tips-to-supercharge-the-school-musical/>
3. *PMEA News* (1992)

Paul K. Fox

Retired Member Coordinator/Pennsylvania Music Educators Association
Chair/PMEA Council on Teacher Training, Recruitment, and Retention
1564 Hastings Mill Road, Upper St. Clair, PA 15241
412-596-7937 cell 412-854-3459 voice mail
paulkfox.usc@gmail.com
<https://paulfox.blog/>

