



# Social Media – Boon or Nemesis?

by Paul K. Fox – DCMEA State Conference – January 30, 2026

## A. Session Description

We will explore the pros and cons of emerging online technology for veteran music teachers, new or pre-service educators, and even retirees. The presentation will touch-on various legal issues, the ethical framework necessary to guide teacher decision-making and the avoidance of unacceptable “appearances or actions,” and precautions for the use of digital communications and social networks. Sample success stories, “exemplars,” and resources for the safe use of tech tools and applications of social media/remote/alternative/distance learning will be shared.

## B. Targets

Session participants will appraise, critique, differentiate, justify, and internalize knowledge and understanding of the following essential questions:

1. What are the expectations of teachers with regard to their “electronic” interactions with students?
2. How do teachers’ use of emerging technologies such as social networking, cell phones, etc., present challenges to maintaining appropriate student-teacher boundaries and educator professionalism?
3. What are some of the potential consequences for inappropriate use of technology?
4. Why and how should teachers control their public “brand” or persona?
5. How can you use technology to *inspire* your students?

After a survey of numerous resources, the participants will be able to review and recall examples of “safe social media” as well as the risks associated with using social networks and be able to apply effective strategies for using emerging technology in their music classrooms.

## C. Clinician

**Paul K. Fox** is Past State Chair (2016-2024) and current member of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Council for Teacher Training, Recruitment, and Retention and the PMEA State Retired Members’ Coordinator. He retired in June 2013 from 35 years of public-school music teaching and administration. His final job assignment was Performing Arts Curriculum Leader and orchestra/string teacher (grades 5-12) employed by the Upper St. Clair School District (Allegheny County in Western Pennsylvania). As a music educator, he also taught choral music (grades 7-12), vocal/general music (grades K-8), elementary band (grade 4), plays/musicals (grades 4-12), and music theory (all grades). Since 2012, he has presented 80+ professional development workshops and has written more than 200 articles about care/health/wellness of educators, creativity in education, interview techniques, marketing professionalism, pre-service training, educator ethics, and retirement resources for a variety of websites and publications, most of which are archived at this website: <https://paulfox.blog/>.

## D. Resources

**Copy of this session’s slides:** <https://paulfox.blog/becoming-a-music-educator/>

Clinician’s article: <https://paulfox.blog/2018/04/29/social-media-boon-or-nemesis/>

Clinician’s series on ethics: <https://paulfox.blog/category/ethics/>

PMEA Council TTRR resources: <https://www.pmea.net/council-for-ttrr/>

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## E. Sample Bibliography

“Digital Tips for Educators” by the PA Professional Standards and Practices Commission

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pspc/resources/commission-publications/digital-tips-for-educators>

“How Music Teachers Can Use the Power of Social Media” by Amanda Green

<https://www.socialmediatoday.com/content/how-music-teachers-can-use-power-social-media>

“Model Code of Ethics for Educators” (NASDTEC)

[https://www.nasdtec.net/page/MCEE\\_Doc](https://www.nasdtec.net/page/MCEE_Doc)

Mrs. Miracle’s Music Room “Social Media for Music Teachers”

<http://www.mrsmiraclesmusicroom.com/2017/03/social-media-for-music-teachers.html>

“The Oxford Handbook of Social Media and Music Learning” by Janice L. Waldron, Stephanie Horsley, and Kari K. Veblen <https://academic.oup.com/edited-volume/43654>

“Revolutionizing Music Education – How Social Media is Changing the Way We Teach Music” by Sarah Lee

<https://www.numberanalytics.com/blog/revolutionizing-music-education-with-social-media>

“Social Media Apps and the Music Classroom” by Paulo Cacho

<https://medium.com/all-things-picardy/social-media-apps-the-music-classroom-7d55fade0220>

“Social Media for Good or Evil in Music Learning and Teaching?” by Danielle Sirek

<https://act.maydaygroup.org/volume-22-issue-4/social-media-for-good-or-evil-in-music-learning-and-teaching/>

“Social Media for Teachers” by Matt Davis

<https://www.edutopia.org/blog/social-media-resources-educators-matt-davis>

“Social Media in Education – 13 Ideas for the Classroom” by Matt Evans

<https://pce.sandiego.edu/social-media-in-education/>

“Social Media in Music Education – Extending Learning Where Student “Live” by Daniel J. Albert (MEJ)

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0027432115606976>

“Social Media Rules for Educators” (American Board for the Certification of Teacher Excellence)

<https://www.americanboard.org/blog/10-social-media-rules-for-teachers/>

“Social Media Tips for Members and Associations by NJEA

<https://www.njea.org/socialmedia/>

“Stop, Drop, and Scroll” by Lori Schwartz Reichl (NAfME *Teaching Music*, January 2020)

“Ten Digital Citizenship and Internet Safety Tips for Teachers and Schools” by Kathleen Morris

<http://www.kathleenamorris.com/2018/07/25/internet-safety-teachers/>

“Ten Easy Ways to Clean Up & Curate Your Social Media” by Toni Birdsong (McAfee)

<https://securingtomorrow.mcafee.com/consumer/family-safety/10-easy-ways-to-clean-up-curate-your-social-media/>

“Vision 2020 & Beyond” by Linda Thornton (NAfME *Journal of Music Teacher Education*, Sept. 2019)

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1057083719874949>

“Want to Use Social Media in Your Classroom? Follow These Seven Rules” by Keith Earls

<https://www.edweek.org/tm/articles/2018/09/19/social-media-classroom-7-rules-tips.html>

“Who Invented the Internet?” by Evan Andrews (History Channel)

<https://www.history.com/news/who-invented-the-internet>

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