

NYSSMA® WELCOMES DAN BILAWSKY AS EDITOR OF *SCHOOL MUSIC NEWS*

The New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA®) is delighted to welcome Dan Bilawsky as the editor of *School Music News*! As a seasoned journalist, accomplished musician, and dedicated music educator, Dan brings a valuable and multifaceted perspective to this role.

Dan has been a member of the music faculty at the Harborfields Central School District since 2000. He also serves as the district's K–12 Music Department Coordinator. Dan's instructional roles are numerous, including co-director of the 6th Grade Band; director of the 7th/8th Grade Band, Middle School Jazz Band, and High School Jazz Band, and assistant director of the High School Marching Band. His resume outlines a broad range of responsibilities demonstrating his professional versatility, as well as the depth of knowledge he brings to this opportunity.

Mr. Bilawsky earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Indiana University, an M.S. degree in Education from the Aaron Copland School of Music, a Specialist Diploma in Administration and Supervision from Queens College, and a Master of Music from Five Towns College.

His leadership and dedication have been recognized with numerous honors, including the NYSSMA® Music Educator Innovation Award in 2022. He was also named one of *School Band and Orchestra* magazine's "50 Directors Who Make a Difference" in 2019. Additionally, Dan is a two-time recipient of the HACEF (Harborfields Alumni and Community Educational Foundation) Award and was recognized as an "Educator of the Week" by the New York Lottery/WLNY-TV 55.

Beyond the classroom, Dan has made significant contributions as a conductor, musician and adjudicator. He has served as a guest conductor for SCMEA, HMEA, and NMEA ensembles, most recently in 2025. He is an accomplished musician, a percussionist who performs regularly and conducts the Huntington Community Band's HCB Big Band. He also contributed to the broader music education community through nearly a decade of service on the Suffolk County Music Educators' Association Executive Board.

Additionally, Dan served as the Instrumental Jazz Editor for *School Music News*. His work as a music journalist spans more than two decades, with more than 2,000 published pieces primarily focused on jazz. His writing has appeared in *JazzTimes*, *JAZZed*, *The New York City Jazz Record*, *Music & Arts' The Vault*, and *All About Jazz*, among other outlets.

With his unique blend of editorial experience, insight, practical teaching, and strong connection to the NYSSMA® community, Dan Bilawsky is exceptionally well-positioned to launch the *School Music News* journal into the next chapter. NYSSMA® is excited to welcome Dan, and we look forward to his voice, vision, expertise, and leadership in this important role! ||