

Sarah Black, Conductor

Sarah Black has been teaching orchestra in Gwinnett County for thirteen years. This is her first year at North Gwinnett Middle School ,after teaching at Lanier Middle School for twelve years. During her first year of teaching she was awarded the First Year Teacher of the Year Award and has been Teacher of the Year Finalist at her school numerous times. While at Lanier, the orchestra program grew from 115 students to over 600 students. In its first year, the North Gwinnett Middle School Orchestra has 400 students in grades 6-8. Ms. Black holds a Bachelor of Music Education from Appalachian State University and a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Lesley University. She is the NGMS Connections department/curriculum chair and serves on several committees as well as being sponsor of the Junior Tri-M club. She is has served as state Treasurer for GA-ASTA , is currently the GMEA District 13 Orchestra chair, and has organized many GMEA events including solo/ensemble, all state and she served as 9-10 all state coordinator for two years. Ms. Black has presented professional development sessions in several states including, Georgia, South and North Carolina and Tennessee. She presented "Tried and True Tricks of the Trade" at the National ASTA convention in Albuquerque in March of 2007 and co-presented "Props to Your Orchestra" at GMEA which included a group of 40 of her students. Ms. Black enjoys collaborating with other string teachers and had the opportunity to commission a piece by Bob Phillips for the Lanier Middle School Orchestra. Ms. Black serves as a mentor to new orchestra teachers in the county and has supervised numerous student teachers that have gone on to become successful orchestra teachers. During the summer, Ms. Black teaches at Encore Music Camp and Ga-ASTA camp in addition to attending and presenting at professional development workshops. She is a member of Georgia Music Educator's Association, American String Teachers Association and Georgia Association of Educators. She is a violinist and teaches private lessons on both violin and viola and lives in Suwanee, Georgia.

