



NEWS RELEASE

Waterford School District, 501 N. Cass Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328

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Waterford Teacher Named Orchestra Teacher of the Year 2019-2020

WATERFORD, Mich. – The Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association (MSBOA) recognized Merlyn D. Beard II, orchestra teacher at Kettering and Mott high schools, as the 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year for Orchestra.

MSBOA recognizes two outstanding teachers annually, one for band and one for orchestra. Teachers are nominated by their peers in all 16 MSBOA Districts throughout the state. The Executive Board selects up to three candidates in each area to submit to the entire active membership for voting. Beard's award was announced on January 18, at the Michigan Music Conference, during the MSBOA All-State performance.

"All nominated candidates are outstanding instrumental music educators, and Merlyn Beard is an exceptional instructor," stated Executive Director of MSBOA Charles Bullard.

Beard has taught orchestra and other music classes in the Waterford School District for the last twenty-five years, twenty teaching orchestra at Waterford Kettering High School. Under his direction, the Waterford Kettering Orchestra has performed across the U.S., including performances at Walt Disney World, The Smoky Mountain Music Festival, and the National Orchestra Festival. This year is the first year Beard is directing orchestra at both Waterford high schools.

"I'm excited," said Merlyn Beard. "It was myself and two other really great teachers, and it's a great honor to be chosen by my colleagues. I've loved working with and teaching the students of Waterford, teaching them life through music."

For more information, please contact the Director of Communications and Community Relations Kelly Allen at (248) 706-4867 or at allenk01@wsdmi.org.

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