

Philosophy of Teaching

Students do not care how much you know until they know how much you care!



First, connecting with students and their world helps bring them into the arena of education. The sky is the limit when students know we are there for them and ultimately we are all about their success in life!



John F. Kennedy asked why people should settle for second best when first is available. I believe this to be so true in education and the scope of how we should approach our students and each lesson we teach them.



It is essential to implant and cultivate the desire in students to be the best they can be in whatever they undertake, to give nothing short of 100 percent effort on each task or project. Anything less is selling themselves, their future, their families and their communities short of the potential they could attain.



I believe students mentor each other, setting examples for their peers.



We all can learn, we all can improve, and we all can achieve excellence, especially when working together and working hard.



Music and art bring people together – harmony in a world of disharmony.

Biography

George Edge has been a teacher for 28 years. He has taught instrumental music at Grove City High School (GCHS) for 20 years and is currently director of bands there. Previously, he was director of bands and choirs at Newton High School in Pleasant Hill, Ohio, for eight years.

He has a Master of Arts degree in music education from The Ohio State University, with a minor in educational supervision. He earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Bowling Green State University after initial undergraduate work at Capital University in Columbus.

Edge has received numerous awards and recognition for his teaching, including: induction to The American Bandmasters Association, one of very few high school band directors in the nation so honored; and national recipient of the American School Band Director Association's Stanbury Award and the Columbus Symphony Orchestra's Secondary School Music Educator Award.

With Edge as director, the GCHS symphonic and marching bands have received many honors. They were selected to perform in: the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade in 1990 and 2000; the London, England, New Year's Day Parade in 2005; and the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, 1996 and 2002. They also received superior ratings at the Music Fest Orlando National Concert Band Contest in 1993, 1997, 2001 and 2006.

George Edge is married with two children, a daughter and son. His wife, Sherron, is a music teacher with Columbus Public Schools.

2007

Ohio Teacher of the Year



“With a drive for excellence, passion for teaching, and a deep care and concern for each student, teachers forever impact the lives of their students and the next generation.”

–George Edge



Lifelong Learner



George Edge knows the value of being a lifelong learner and instills this belief in the many students and teachers that he influences.

He says that many students are accustomed to instantaneous results and rewards. It is essential that teachers

find better ways to inspire students to value the long-term rewards of excellence in their own education. He says students must learn to take personal responsibility for excellence in their lives.

He believes that education is a marathon, not a 100-yard dash, and that teachers need to continue to develop effective short-term rewards that bridge the gap between the long-term process of education and the media-driven culture that students understand.

Edge emphasizes that as teachers encourage students to improve, they, too, must view teaching as a dynamic process that is always changing, always alive. Each day, the goal must be to become a better teacher.

Educators must always remember that learning is a lifelong adventure, and that “we are all teachers and learners.”

George Edge

Through the eyes of his colleagues...

“What a fitting word: ‘conductor!’... Mr. Edge is, as in electricity or heat, the conductor of a kind of force or passion that is transmitted to his students.”

“George sets very high standards, but he always gives his students the tools to achieve those standards. He motivates young people to be the very best they can be, continually stretching to develop beyond what they originally feel they can.”

“Mr. Edge has instilled in students the concept that ‘steel sharpens steel’ and the competitive, yet encouraging, environment that his bands provide has produced students with talent, drive and pride.”

“Teaching is about equipping students for life. Without my time under Mr. Edge, I don’t feel like I would have been prepared for MIT, a much more demanding place than high school. At MIT, I was given many chances to test the work ethic I learned in band, and it clearly stood up to the test.”

“George Edge leads by example. His strong sense of values supports all his dealings with people – students, staff, parents and community.”

“He personally instills the insight that the goals we achieve by working diligently, by collaborating, by helping each other, are the tools for ultimate success in life.”

A Leader in School and Community

George Edge is committed to his community, school and church.

He considers honoring military servicemen and women through musical performances a particular privilege. For the past 18 years, he has marched with his bands in Memorial Day parades and performed patriotic music at community cemeteries, saluting those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

For the Fourth of July, his bands participate in parades in Grove City and neighboring communities, and his jazz bands often entertain for senior citizens at the Evans Senior Citizens Center.

He also gives back to his community with band performances at civic and charitable events and by helping the local booster organization raise funds to enable financially challenged students to participate in trips and opportunities.

He is a frequent guest speaker at various community organizations such as Rotary and Lions clubs where he engages them as partners and thanks them for their support of young people. In addition, he has volunteered time with the Boy Scouts and 4-H.

Edge contributes to his profession and his school by offering his skills and insights to other music teachers through Ohio Music Educators Association (OMEA) programs and leading seminars for aspiring instrumental music teachers at several state universities.

He also serves on the GCHS Site-Based Steering Committee, which sets the school’s educational goals and focus, resolves school issues and problems, and approves speakers for staff development and teacher enrichment.