

## KIRK WASSMER BAND & INSTRUMENTAL ADJUDICATOR

Kirk has recently retired after a 35 year career teaching band across Western Canada. For the past 23 years he was at Didsbury High School, a rural community north of Calgary where more than half of the school's population was involved in the Music Program. Ensembles from DHS consistently received high accolades for their concert and festival performances. Prior to Didsbury Kirk taught at G.P. Vanier Secondary School in Courtenay, BC and at Revelstoke Secondary School. Students from all of Kirk's programs can be found across Western Canada performing and teaching music.

Kirk received his undergraduate degree from the University of Saskatchewan, and a Master of Music from the University of Missouri – Columbia. He has conducted numerous regional and provincial honour bands, been on the faculty of summer music schools in BC and Alberta, and continues to adjudicate and guest conduct across Western Canada. In addition to his professional duties, Kirk served on the Boards of the Alberta Band Association, the Canadian Band Association and the Coalition for Music Education in Canada.

In 2017 Kirk received the David Peterkin Award in recognition of exemplary and consistent contribution to bands and band education from the Mu Alpha chapter of Phi Beta Mu. He was presented with the Elkhorn Band Director of the Year award by the Alberta Band Association in 2019, and in 2022 received the Vondis Miller Legacy Award. Kirk was honoured to receive the Keith Mann/National Arts Centre Outstanding Band Director Award from MusicFest – The Nationals and a Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence in 2024.

As an advocate for music education and the value of music in young people's lives, Kirk continues to spread the word through workshops and guest conducting engagements. He works to employ a student-centred approach to music education, empowering them to realize the tremendous value that music can bring to their lives.