



# TOUCHPOINT

The Division of Education Newsletter

Conn-Selmer  
DIVISION OF EDUCATION

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## A Note from Dr. Tim

Greetings. In this edition of *Touchpoint*, Gary Markham, recently retired Supervisor of Music for the Cobb County School District, talks with us about the always-crucial topic of trust. TRUST is the FOUNDATION to everything that we as educators strive to do.



## Building Trust

By Gary Markham

It takes great personal character traits to be a successful educator, but *trustworthiness* is of the highest order. Having great pedagogical skill, wonderful instructional strategies and inspiring conducting prowess are certainly important traits for a music educator. However, the ability to develop trusting relationships must have equal weight and be at the center of your character.

Students will be motivated to work harder when there is genuine caring and the trust that you want them to succeed. They must know that you will not give up on them and you will do whatever is necessary to support their instructional needs. Moreover, your modeling of trustworthiness will be a positive inspiration beyond the music making.

Parents entrust their most important treasure to you everyday. It is critical to care for their children's health and safety, as well as provide them with wonderful music experiences. Their trust in you to provide an environment of safety and musical joy is the best *advocacy* you can possibly achieve.



Gaining trust with administrators and teacher colleagues will do wonders for your program. Do not become isolated in your own room only tending to your program. Administrators and colleagues must trust that you sincerely have the best interest of all students and the entire school at the center of your actions. Work to see the "big picture" and to understand the importance of every discipline. Empathize with the crucial and difficult job of the school administrator and determine how you and your program can help.

Create a culture of *collegiality* with music teacher colleagues. This can be most easily accomplished by building a level of trust that you are genuinely interested in sharing your knowledge and gaining important insight from them. Remember you can reach much greater heights working together than any one can do alone.



Welcome to our newest  
V.I.P.s

**Jaclyn Shea**

VH1 Save the Music

**John Burn**

Homestead HS, CA

**Doug Johnson**

Racine USD, WI

**Bill Watson**

Lewisville ISD, TX

Our Next Issue Featuring:

An article by **Dean Westman**  
Director of Orchestras at Avon  
High School in Avon, Indiana.

In Our Last Issue:

**End of Summer**

by Dr. Frank Tracz  
[click here for full article](#)