

Boomwhackers, pBones, and Orff Instruments. These are the words you hear in Mr. Hunter's music class along with the sounds of symphonic strings, rhythmic drumlines, and a rousing concert band. Ben Hunter is a leader and innovator in music education at Red Hill Lutheran School. His passion resonates not only in his classroom but has a resounding impact on the community.

Since 2014, Ben Hunter has singlehandedly developed an instrumental survey program for elementary students, as well as a middle school concert band and a string orchestra. This year, he founded the RHLS Drumline which has played at Angels Stadium and during the Tustin Tiller Days Parade, where the school's presentation won first place.

Mr. Hunter gives his all to these programs, coming in before school to work with the String Ensemble to support advanced musicians. After a full day of leading students who play recorders, ukuleles, violins, cellos, and a variety of band instruments, he still has time to promote school activities like the Christmas Carol and Dessert Night, Pep Rallies, and Angel's Band Night where over 330 members of the school community came to support the RHLS band. In order to support his endeavors, he founded a donor incentive program to raise funds for the music program, leading to \$3000 in donations. The community supports Mr. Hunter, because Mr. Hunter supports the community.

As the founder and facilitator of the Southern California Christian Schools Honor Ensembles Concert series, Mr. Hunter works with local schools to support students who show potential for higher level differentiated opportunities. These students rehearse together then perform at the Concordia University Worship Center in Irvine.

Mr. Hunter brings 5th-8th grade students to events in the larger community such as Orange Lutheran High School's Youth Band Night where the students play pep tunes with a high school pep band. He also supports 5th graders attendance at Orange Lutheran High School Arts Fest to perform on their Performing Arts Center stage. He brings the String Orchestra and Concert Band to Orange Lutheran High School's Youth Instrumental Invitational that is adjudicated by a collegiate judge so his students can receive professional feedback and a hands-on clinic. Being a Class Act school through the Pacific Symphony allows his students to perform a prelude to the symphony's musicians' Family Night performance for school families and local community members.

Without a doubt, Ben Hunter tirelessly works to instill a love of music in his students. His impact reverberates beyond his classroom at RHLS into the larger Orange County area.