

Dr. Sara Womack is dedicated to creating arts-rich schools across the Cobb County School District, ensuring every student has access to high-quality, sequential arts education. In her fourth year as Supervisor for General and Choral Music, Dance, and Theatre, she leads initiatives that expand student engagement, strengthen teacher capacity, and build community partnerships.

Previously, Dr. Womack served as Fine and Performing Arts Coordinator for Atlanta Public Schools for six years and taught elementary music for fifteen years in metro Birmingham, while also serving as an adjunct professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). She holds degrees in music education and instructional leadership from UAB and an Ed.D. in music education from the University of Georgia, along with Orff-Schulwerk Certification from the American Orff-Schulwerk Association and National Board Certification in early and middle childhood music.

A recognized leader in arts advocacy, Dr. Womack has served as President of the Alabama Music Educators Association and Southern Division of NAfME and chaired advocacy for GMEA. She currently serves as President-Elect for GMEA. She is also a Conn-Selmer Educational Clinician and serves on the boards of Spirit of Atlanta Drum and Bugle Corps, Metropolitan Atlanta Community Band, and Pianos for Peace. Her contributions have earned her numerous honors, including the GMEA Administrative Leadership Award and recognition as a Woodruff Arts Center Arts Education Honoree.

Outside of work, she enjoys traveling and hiking with her husband, Sean, and their two sons, Will, 22, and Mason, 18.



How did you get started in music?

I grew up in a musical family. My dad is a musician, who owned a music store in Birmingham for nearly 50 years. He's a banjo player, who is honored in the Alabama Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and received the Alabama Folk Heritage Award. His father was a guitar player and square dance caller and his mom loved playing rags on the piano. I was destined to love music. I sang in the church choir and my main instruments are clarinet and percussion.

What were your favorite parts of being a classroom teacher? Inspiring students to love music was my favorite part. I absolutely loved seeing them have fun, while making music and learning along the way!

What led you to become an administrator? As my leadership experience grew through AMEA and NAFME, I realized that I really enjoyed supporting other teachers in their journey to become more effective and efficient and enabling more students to have access to high quality music programs. I appreciate being able to drive significant change for teachers and students.

What do you wish every teacher knew about life as an administrator? An administrator's purpose is to support the work of teachers. Teachers are the experts in the field and the true heroes. Please be open with your needs, so we can fulfill our purpose. In the words of Jerry McGuire, "Help me help you."

What do you miss about the classroom? I miss the kids! Luckily, I'm able to connect with students and track their growth by attending lots of performances, spending as much time as possible in schools, and helping organize districtwide and community events. I'm still engaging with students. It's just in a different way!

What is your favorite part of your current role? My favorite part of my current role is the opportunity to increase access to high quality music programs for all students regardless of where they are in their musical journey. This might mean expanding modern band and music technology programs for students not interested in traditional band, chorus, and orchestra programs or supporting the creation of honors-level music performance courses for highly skilled students.

What are you looking forward to as the President-Elect of GMEA? I'm looking forward to learning from the teachers of Georgia. What's working in Georgia's schools and districts? What areas are in need of improvement? How can GMEA support further growth, so all students have access to high quality music programs?

What do you think you'll bring with you from your time as AMEA President? During my time as AMEA President, I learned the importance of building cohesive and engaging relationships built around trust and vulnerability. Authentic and connected communities create a foundation for high performance and innovative ideas that allow an entire organization to flourish. Every member is valued and has something to offer.

Do you have any advice for current music educators? In what ways can they prevent burn-out or work on classroom management in order to thrive? My advice to current music educators is to build an effective support team. Ask for help and lend a hand. Nonstructured time to talk through issues and celebrate successes in and out of the classroom is essential to prevent burnout and focus on continued wellness. It's the power of collective impact. We is greater than me!

Who influenced you the most as a music educator? My dad influenced me the most as a music educator. His music store was a community of music lovers from all walks of life. Some were doctors or lawyers and some were more blue-collar workers, but they came together to make music at all times of the day and night. He taught me that music is for everyone. Where someone lives should not determine their access to basic human experiences. My dad showed me through lived experience and his impact on others that music transcends barriers and changes lives.

Do you have a favorite memory as an educator? As an administrator? One of my favorite memories as an educator and administrator is seeing how music brings us together. A few years ago, I took part in my college alma mater's alumni band, where I performed alongside three of my former elementary music students. Last year, one of my band friends from high school helped organize our districtwide arts showcase. Her son is now a drum major at one of our district high schools. Making music together unites us into a family!