

## MEET THE DIRECTORS



**Warren Starr** earned a B.S. degree in Music Education from the University of Minnesota in 1980, and a certificate in Gifted/Creative/Talented Education from the University of St. Thomas in 2011. He started teaching at Hill-Murray School in 1981, and has been the Coordinator of the Parish Schools Band Program since 1984. Warren toured China with the University of Minnesota Wind Ensemble in the summer of 1980. He has played tuba with the 451<sup>st</sup> Army Band at Fort Snelling, the Tubadours at Valley Fair, the Minnesota Orchestra, and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. He currently performs with the Minneapolis Pops Orchestra and his own quintet, Minnesota Brassworks.

**Beth Johnson** began teaching in the Hill-Murray Parish Schools Band Program in 1990. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Arts in Education Degree from Hamline University. With flute as her major instrument, Beth has performed with the Wooddale Orchestra, the Shoreview Northern Lights Variety Band, University of Minnesota Wind Ensemble and McDonald's All-American Marching Band. In 2004 she received the Distinguished Educator Award from the White Bear Lake School District. As a woodwind clinician she presented a woodwind techniques session for the Minnesota Music Educators Association and has served on the board of directors for the Minnesota Band Directors Association.

**Elizabeth (Buffy) Larson** has been a band director in the Parish Schools Band Program since 2001. She has a B.A. in both Music Education and Elementary Education from Augsburg College. She also has a M.A. in Music Education from St. Thomas University. Buffy free lances on trumpet and performs regularly with The Capital City Brass Quintet and The Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra. Buffy is on the Board of Directors of the Bach Society of Minnesota and volunteers regularly for The Lyra Baroque Orchestra and The Baroque Room in downtown St. Paul. Buffy is the volunteer director of Bell Choirs and the Junior Choir at her church. Her love of Baroque Music has led Buffy to begin the study of the natural trumpet.

**Heather LeVesseur** began teaching with the Hill-Murray Parish Schools Band Program in 2001. She has a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Augsburg College, and is working towards her Master's Degree in Music Education at the University of St. Thomas. Heather plays bassoon and contrabassoon in the North Suburban Concert Band, the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, and freelances with several local orchestras. She also teaches private bassoon lessons.

**LeAnn Lindgren** joined the Parish Schools Band Program as a Band Director in 2006. LeAnn earned her Bachelor of Science in Music Education degree from the University of Minnesota. She has been a private instructor of woodwinds and jazz studies at Hamline University, band director at St. Paul Academy and Summit School, and private instructor of classical, jazz, and pop music at The West Bank School of Music. Along with her teaching, LeAnn has kept an ongoing career as a performing musician. Among her accomplishments, she was voted "Best Instrumentalist" by the Minnesota Music Academy in 1994 in the Brass/Reed category.