

## MEET THE DIRECTORS



**Warren Starr** earned a B.S. degree in Music Education from the University of Minnesota in 1980 and is currently working toward a certificate in Gifted/Creative/Talented Education at the University of St. Thomas. 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's Degree in education from Hamline University. With flute as her major instrument, Beth performs with the Wooddale Orchestra, the Shoreview Northern Lights Variety Band and is a former member of the University of Minnesota Wind Ensemble. In 2004 she received the Distinguished Educator Award from the White Bear Lake School District. In addition she has presented a woodwind techniques session for the Minnesota Music Educators Association, and has served on the board of directors for the Minnesota Band Director's 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 and is writing her thesis as part of a Master's Degree in Music Education at the University of St. Thomas. Buffy has worked on her Master's in trumpet performance at the University of Minnesota and freelances on trumpet as a soloist and with her brass quintet, Capital City Brass Quintet. She has recently joined the Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra. Buffy is on the board of directors of the Bach Society of Minnesota and is a program intern for the Lyra Baroque Orchestra. She conducts the handbell choir at her church.

**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 Wooddale 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 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.