

Rachel Maxwell

2025 All State Junior High Symphonic Band

Rachel Maxwell currently serves as the Director of Bands at Traughber Junior High School, SD #308 in Oswego, IL. She has taught music education courses at VanderCook College of Music in Chicago and North Central College in Naperville, IL. In addition, she serves on the editorial review board of NAFME's Teaching Music magazine. Mrs. Maxwell has been invited to be a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator at several music camps and festivals including the Music for All National Summer Symposium, the West Virginia JH All-State Band, the NC All-State Middle School Band, ISYM at the Univ. of Illinois, IL State Univ. Junior High Camp, and several ILMEA District Level Festivals.

Mrs. Maxwell is currently a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate at Boston University and has degrees from Illinois State University (BME), The University of Illinois (MME), and Aurora University (MAEL).

A proponent of new music for young bands, she is part of the team from Oswego SD #308 that commissioned and premiered *Sheltering Sky* by John Mackey, *Sol ye Sombra* by Donald Grantham, *Atmosphere* by Scott McAllister, *Our Cast Aways* by Julie Giroux, *Dream of Ember*, *Dream of Star* by David Biedenbender, and *Forward/Still* by Omar Thomas. She has independently commissioned several works and is also involved in several consortium commissions including those with composers Dana Wilson, The N-BEAM Group, Randall Standridge, Roy Magnuson, Brian Balmages, Katahji Copley, Aakash Mittal, Alex Shapiro, Haley Woodrow, Joni Greene, Ivette Herryman Rodriguez, and Aaron Perrine. She is also a founding member of [The Kneel Consortium](#).

Under her direction, the bands at Traughber JHS have performed at The Midwest Clinic (three clinic presentations and one rehearsal lab group), the Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Conference (three formal concerts and four clinic presentations), the University of Illinois Super-state Festival and at the ASBDA National Convention.

Rachel Maxwell is a member of The National Association of Music Education, Illinois Music Educators Association, American School Band Directors Association, National Band Association, National Council of Supervisors of Music Education, Pi Kappa Lambda, Phi Beta Mu, and several honor societies. She is a multiple-year nominee for the Music Educator Grammy Award, 5-time recipient of the National Band Association Citation of Excellence, Chicago-land Outstanding Music Educator Award, National Recipient of the Jim Ott (Drum Corps International) Scholarship, ASBDA/UMI Outstanding Young Band Director Award-Junior High Division for the North Central Region of the United States and a Golden Apple nominee.