

ADVOCACY

In these tough economic times, we need to continue working hard to preserve the music programs in Kansas. Our State KMEA board has been quite active in creating a network for ADVOCACY of our music programs. You will hear more about this network in the following months. **The most important advocates of your programs will, of course, be: YOU, your students, your students' parents, community members, BOE members and administrators! KMEA Advocacy representatives will be sending a survey to each school district. YOUR INPUT IS IMPERATIVE** to the success of our Advocacy Network. When you receive this survey, please **work with the music colleagues in your district** to compile the necessary information and pass it on through our **KMEA survey**.

Advocacy ideas: to find ideas regarding building district advocates for your programs, check out the MENC website (nafme.org) and don't forget to dialog with your peers. Your peers/colleagues will be some of your biggest supporters and they might have great ideas for you to use in promoting your programs!

WOW MOMENTS: think about why you're a music teacher and, hopefully, you'll begin the year on positive NOTES! We hope that our audience members attending your concerts will have WOW moments at all of your concerts! Think about your program as the VESSEL to shed a little light for your audiences. Audiences should not only feel proud of their children and students, but they should also leave your concerts feeling like they can't live without music!

21 CENTURY SKILLS: This is the topic buzzing through our districts right now. We need to prove to our administrations and school boards that WE ARE TEACHING KIDS ABOUT THOSE 21ST CENTURY SKILLS! Look up the skills on line (nafme.org) and make people aware that you are teaching those skills. Brainstorm with your colleagues and recognize how music fits into the 21st Century Skills idea. Incorporate assessments that fit into the SKILLS ideas. The 21st Century Skills topic is quite new in many districts this year, and music teachers will possibly be last to hear about this new target.

If we are aware of the discussions and implementation, then we can be the leaders in helping other teachers to figure out how to apply 21st Century Skills their curricula, instead of finding out that our positions are being cut because we don't teach or use the 21st Century Skills in our music classes! BE PRO-ACTIVE as much as possible.