



# P R E S E N T S   T H E TEACHER OF THE MONTH



## Ronald Hoes Teacher makes a career of sharing passion for music

Ronald Hoes grew up knowing he was going to be an engineer. He

followed that path resolutely until he found himself in band class under the direction of Roger Winslow at L.D. Bell High School in Hurst. The rest, as they say, is history.

"I took private lessons all through junior high and high school," Mr. Hoes says. "My band directors also worked with me individually because they saw an interest in music in me. That's what I carry on in my teaching career, working with small groups and one-on-one with my students, trying to inspire them the way I was inspired."

Mr. Hoes works his musical magic with sixth through eighth graders at Sellers Middle School, where he has been for 16 of his 32 years as a band director. He received his bachelor's and his master's, both in musical education, at the former East Texas State University, now known as Texas A&M-Commerce.

The inspiration that led him to teaching has definitely paid off, as several of Mr. Hoes' band students have followed in his footsteps, some even becoming band directors in the Garland school district years after passing through Mr. Hoes' band hall.

Mr. Hoes says the Sellers band program numbers about 100 students. Half of those are sixth graders, who choose from among band, choir, and other fine-arts offerings to discover a love or talent for the arts they may not have known any other way.

"A lot of kids would never have a chance to play an instrument. This program is a big step forward for them," Mr. Hoes says. Their participation in band can even open college doors, he says. "Scholarships available through college band programs make college possible for students who might otherwise not be able to consider it. I had one student who is in the Aggie Band at Texas A&M, who received a full

scholarship."

Mr. Hoes knows first hand how valuable a musical foundation can be to a student. His three sons were all percussionists through high school, and one even received a full scholarship to the University of Oklahoma as a member of the marching band's drum line.

Mr. Hoes' love of music extends beyond the classroom. He is a trombonist with the Lakeshore Symphonic Winds, a group that performs regularly in the area. He also sings in the Southern Gospel Quartet, as well as in his church choir.

Teaching, however, is truly Mr. Hoes' first love. "It's an honor to be a teacher and to work with our kids. After all, we're really working with our future," he says.

"I have a lot of fun when I teach. The kids have some very mature ways about them, and they're constantly surprising me," Mr. Hoes says.

Mr. Hoes says he is fortunate to be at a great school like Sellers. "We have outstanding support from our principals. We feel very appreciated in what we do. As a result, there's a very low turnover rate here. Teachers work together as teams, and that create a good working environment."

Clearly, the feeling is mutual. "Ron Hoes is a great team player," says Seller principal William Woods. "As part of our team at Sellers, he is the 'whatever you need guy.' His passion and compassion for students is evident in all he does."

"All he does" takes in a great deal of territory, well outside the band hall. Mr. Hoes heads up the school golf team, works with the black history program and the school's Cinco de Mayo celebration, serves as sound technician for all theatre productions, and works with the soccer team.

Sellers Middle School students are fortunate to have an outstanding faculty member like Ronald Hoes on staff, contributing his love of music, his passion for making a difference, and his love of teaching to the lives around him every day.



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