TO: Mike Thomas, Dr. Hicks, and the TEPS Committee
FROM: Andrea Runfola, Music Teacher
RE: The Midwest Band and Orchestra Conference; Abstract
DATE: December 31, 2018

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend this year's Midwest Band and Orchestra Conference from December 19th to December 22nd, 2018. As always, this is the only conference to offer multiple opportunities to gain professional development in every area of my teaching. I cannot begin to describe how much I gain from attending this amazing conference.

This year, I took full advantage of the conference and made sure I attended at least one session/concert/ booth that could enhance my teaching in every area. Being new to the high school full time, and being part time at Ledgeview, attending this conference held even more importance.
Here are just some of the sessions/concerts I attended:

Percussion 101 Refresher
Cy-Fair High School Symphonic Band
Waubonsie Valley High School Wind Ensemble
Centennial High School Wind Ensemble
Douglas Anderson School of the Arts Jazz Ensemble
Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Wind Symphony
Jazz rehearsal Techniques and Strategies
Cobb Wind Symphony
Creative Rehearsal Techniques from Around the Country
Jazz New Music Reading Session
Ronald Reagan High School Wind Ensemble
Trumpet Pedagogy from Day One

These were just the highlights of the Conference. Aside from these sit down clinics/concerts, it took me 4 hours to go through all the exhibits; new instruments, new music, gadgets to make playing easier, fundraising booths, technology and new computer software, just to name a few. I was able to Join JazzED Network that offers tools and resources to my jazz students too.

Once again, this conference is like no other in the United States. I gained so much professional development from every session. I cannot thank Dr. Hicks, Mr. Smith, and the TEPS committee enough for providing this opportunity for me, and ultimately, my students.

Respectfully Submitted,

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