

Michael Kasper  
Legacy Award Recipient 2020

Michael Kasper graduated from Sycamore High School in 2004. During high school, he was part of Concert and Symphonic Bands, Symphony Orchestra, Marching Band, and played in the pit for the school musicals. Michael was Drum Major for Marching Band his senior year. He was an annual participant in the ILMEA District 8 Festival Band or Orchestra and Suburban Prairie Conference Band. Lastly, in 2004, Michael performed with Symphony Orchestra at the Illinois Music Educators Conference.

Michael earned his undergraduate degree in Music Education from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He then earned his Master's in Educational Administration from Northern Illinois University.

Michael has been the band teacher at Carpentersville Middle School since 2009. He directs both the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade concert bands. He also started and currently directs two auditioned jazz bands. During his eleven years at CMS, Michael has grown the band program from 80 students to over 200. The CMS 8th Grade Band was selected to perform for a demonstration clinic at the 2017 ILMEA Music Educators Conference. In addition to being a member of the National Association for Music Education and the Illinois Music Educators Association, Michael is part of the Illinois Comprehensive Musicianship through Performance Committee where he currently serves as President-Elect.

In 2018, Michael was a recipient of the Elgin Youth Symphony Educator of the Year award. Michael continues to teach private French horn lessons in the DeKalb and Sycamore area. Finally, this year, Michael was a Quarterfinalist for the prestigious 2020 Grammy Music Educator of the Year Award.