

# RUSSELL SMITH

Born and raised in Peru, IN

Attended Peru HS where his band director was Robert Urbani

Graduate of Indiana University, BME and MS

Has taught at Seymour HS (1983-86) and Shelbyville HS (1986-2021)

Has served as President of IMEA

Was recognized with the Golden Apple Award for Most Outstanding Educator, Shelby County Chamber of Commerce; Outstanding Educator Award, Shelbyville Rotary; Outstanding Arts Educator, Shelby Arts Council;

Most memorable performance: One of the most memorable memories I've had as a teacher was a few years before my retirement. I was asked to take a small group of students to perform for the "Arts Day at the Statehouse" activity to promote music and the arts in our schools. I had a group of students in my Instrumental Ensemble class that were working on some Dixieland Band arrangements, so I took them to perform in the Statehouse rotunda during the lunch break. To my great surprise, the Speaker of the House asked his assistant to invite my students to perform in the house chambers for all the State Representatives after they opened session after lunch. My students brought the House members to their feet with a rousing rendition of "Back Home Again in Indiana." It was truly one of many great and memorable moments in my career.

Russell is married to his wife, Weedie