

MSMTA Mentoring Chair Report  
2019-2020

In September of 2019 I contacted several young teachers in Missoula who had either recently graduated from UM or were current music students who were also teaching. A group of six, five piano teachers and one string teacher met at my home for lunch and a lively discussion covering a variety of topics ranging from dealing with challenging behavior, motivation, music choices, policy items and the benefits of joining our Local, State and National organizations. I had boxes of used music available that I encouraged them to take as needed. We all agreed that we would like to continue meeting throughout the year. All of these teachers became members of the Missoula Music Teachers Association, MSMTA, and MTNA.

A few of us met again for coffee in January to discuss participation and preparation for upcoming festivals. We also had the opportunity to address various concerns and offer helpful tips for practicing, etc.

The next time we were in contact was after the corona virus hit Montana. I sent out an email asking how everyone was doing and how/if they were continuing their lessons. I thought it would be interesting to hear how teachers' remote teaching was progressing. I sent a similar e-mail out to the list of new MSMTA members, but received no response.

It would be helpful for the State Mentoring Chair to learn more from each Local Association about the role taken in mentoring teachers in their own communities and organizations. I am looking forward to contacting the Local Association presidents to see how we can better serve our membership and especially, our new teachers and student teachers in the coming year.

Respectively submitted,

Dorothy Beck Peterson