

SAM HANKINS BIO

Samuel Hankins, comes from a musical family. His maternal grandmother played the piano and was a tremendous gospel singer, his brother plays the piano and major in voice and teach elementary general music k-5th, his father played harmonica and vocals in various R & B bands. So it was inevitable that Mr. Hankins' musical education would begin at an early age. Encouraged by his father, Samuel Hankins Sr., young "Hank" began with the guitar. In middle school he switched to the trumpet. Again, encouraged by his father, Mr. Hankins began playing professionally, in churches and professional bands and orchestras.

Mr. Hankins' love of music led him to Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Music Performance. He became active in college joining the distinguish men of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. After college he joined the Air Force Jazz Band, The Pacesetters, stationed at Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul, Illinois. He remained with the Pacesetters as a trumpeter until the Air Force Base closed in 1991. Mr. Hankins then returned to school, earning both a Bachelors Degree and a Masters Degree in Music Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

As a trumpet player, Mr. Hankins has performed and recorded with many bands: big band such as Glenn Miller big band, Clark Terry, circus bands, funk bands, cruise ship, combos, and commercial recording sessions. He has performed with pop artist groups such as the Ojays, Aretha Franklin, Temptation, and the Dells. Armed with this impressive array of degrees, experience, and credentials, Mr. Hankins accepted the position of Band Director at Edison Middle School in September 1995. During his first year as Band Director, Mr. Hankins led two bands to place first in division ratings in the State Music Competitions. Since that time the Edison Band Program has earned extensive recognition as one of the premier middle school band programs in Illinois and nationwide.