

## **MUS 716 – Introductions**

**Jim Novak**

**6.3.21**

**Please tell the class about yourself and where you came from. What do you hope to gain from this class?**

My name is Jim Novak, and I attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for my undergraduate. I just finished my 20th year of teaching. I have taught in Nebraska, Iowa, and now in South Dakota, and most of my career has been at the middle school level. I just completed my fifth year in the Harrisburg School District, serving as Director of Bands for Harrisburg South Middle School. My job assignment has consisted of two concert ensembles (6th grade band and 7th/8th combined band), and a jazz band that meets before school. I live in Sioux Falls with my wife Erin, son Jay (11), and daughter Nora (4). I am in my fourth semester working toward my MME. It has always been my goal to earn my master's degree, and I am happy to finally be in the process!

We are moving to the Des Moines area this summer, immediately following our week on-campus, so it's going to be a bit crazy leading up to that time. I have accepted a position as Director of Bands at Meredith Middle School, in the Des Moines Public School District. While I'm tremendously excited to take on that large program, I'm afraid I won't have a very good handle on the existing technology of the building and district until I can get into my band room and take inventory of everything. I've used technology every year I've taught, but I feel like I use a pretty small set of technology pretty religiously. I would enjoy getting some new ideas through this course.