



Dr. Reginald Houze
Director of Bands
Watkins Overton High School

Dr. Reginald Houze is Director of Bands and Wind Ensemble Conductor at Watkins Overton High School in Memphis, Tennessee. Just prior to his appointment at Overton, Dr. Houze was Interim Director of Bands and Wind Ensemble Conductor at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas where he also taught instrumental music courses in literature, conducting, and performance practice. He previously served on the faculties at Clemson University and The University of Southern Mississippi as Assistant Director of Bands. While at Southern Miss., Dr. Houze was Director of The Pride of Mississippi Marching Band and led that organization in a number of well-received performances including those for the GMAC Bowl and a command performance for the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field. Additionally, he has taught in the public and private schools of Florida and Mississippi. Prior affiliations include serving as Music Director/Conductor and co-founder of the Hattiesburg (MS) Junior Pops Orchestra (a tri-county youth ensemble) and membership on the band staff at the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Houze holds an undergraduate degree in music from The University of Southern Mississippi and a master's degree in music from the Steinhardt School at New York University. In 2005 he was awarded the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Conducting from the University of South Carolina. His research interests include original works for vocal soloist and wind band, shaped note hymnology, and the music of Cole Porter. Professional memberships include the Texas Music Educators Association, the College Band Directors National Association, and the Conductor's Guild, Inc. Dr. Houze was a Doctoral Fellow of the Southern Regional Education Board.



Jeff Huddleston
Director of Jazz Studies
Watkins Overton High School

Jeff Huddleston was born and raised in Greenville, MS. He was virtually submersed in music from birth because his father, Roy Huddleston, was a band director at Coleman High School and latter Greenville High School. Roy Huddleston also played in the local symphony orchestra and his own dance band, the "Green Tops." With this constant exposure to music it was only natural for Jeff to want to play music. After a couple of failed attempts at piano lessons, Jeff started to study the saxophone in 9th grade band. From that first encounter with the saxophone, Jeff knew what his musical voice would be. He soon became the first chair in the 9th grade band and never looked back since. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Mississippi Valley State University and a Master of Music degree from the University of Mississippi.

Jeff received numerous honors for his mastery of the saxophone in high school and college. Most notably, the McDonald's All-American Band & Jazz Bands and the United States Collegiate Wind Band which went on a three week tour of Europe. Jeff has played with Bobby Rush, Joyce Cobb, and in back-up horn sections for the Temptations and The Four Tops. Jeff has also managed, performed, and produced a CD with his own jazz combo, "Blue Bossa."

Jeff's career objective is to facilitate the procurement of high level musical performance utilizing experiences and skills in the classroom environment and decision making to contribute to the achievement of the goals of the educational process and thereby enhance student achievement. In short, provide students with experiences that will foster a life-long love of music and a desire to perform it at a high level.

Jeff's professional teaching experiences span the gambit from elementary school to college. He taught orff music at Crump Elementary School, high school

band at Fairley High School and currently at Overton High School, college at the University of Mississippi and the University of Memphis while attending Graduate School. In addition, Jeff has also served as clinician for jazz festivals and summer camps. He has also been selected for Who's Who Among America's Teachers Awards three times.