

David Griffin**Choral Music Director - Cedar Rapids Community School District****Executive Director - Eastern Iowa Arts Academy**

David Griffin is currently in his 27th year of teaching middle school choral music in the Iowa Public Schools. He received his Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 1991 with an emphasis in piano performance and K-12 Choral Music and his Master's Degree in Secondary Educational Administration from the University of Northern Iowa in 2002. He spent the first five years of his teaching career at Waverly Shell-Rock Jr. High School and moved to Cedar Rapids in 1996 to become the Choral Music Director at McKinley Middle School. After eleven years at McKinley Middle School David was recruited to Harding Middle School where he spent the next ten years building a reputable choral music program. In the summer of 2017 David accepted the choral music position at Franklin Middle School and looks forward to the challenge of building the program.

David's creative and innovative teaching style has earned him many awards and special recognitions in and around the state of Iowa, including; the Alternative Services Child Advocate Volunteer Award, the Golden Apple Award, "Teacher of the Day" award by the Iowa House of Representatives, "Teacher of the Week" in the Cedar Rapids Gazette, Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival's "Hero" award for his work as a teacher and the Eastern Iowa Arts Academy and has been featured in numerous newspaper articles and choral music publications around Iowa. He played a key role in the development and implementation of McKinley Middle School of the Arts in 1999 and founded the Cedar Rapids Young Artists Festival in 2000. David has guest directed over 75 middle school choral music festivals and honor choirs in and around the state of Iowa, with his biggest honor as the director of the 1996 Boys Opus Honor Choir in Ames, Iowa, being one of the youngest directors to direct the festival.

David is also the founder and Executive Director of the Eastern Iowa Arts Academy and brings multiple years of experience in special event coordinating in arts initiatives. Eastern Iowa Arts Academy (EIAA) is a non-profit arts organization formed in 2007 which delivers inspiring arts experiences to children, youth, seniors, adults and individuals with a wide variety of special needs. Classes and workshops are offered in music, art, dance, drama and creative writing and are taught by professional artists, musicians and educators. EIAA offers arts opportunities at over 30 locations across the Greater Cedar Rapids metro area and serves 3,000 participants each year.