

# Kate Sellers

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Full name: Katherine Anne Sellers

## Education

### **Towson University-** Towson, MD, Spring 2024

Master of Science in Music Education

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Instrumental Conducting

GPA: 4.0

### **The Pennsylvania State University-** University Park, PA, Spring 2018

Schreyer Honors College

Bachelors in Music Education

GPA: 3.91

### **Plymouth-Whitemarsh HS-** Plymouth Meeting, PA, Spring 2014

## Relevant Experience

### **Band and Orchestra Director, La Plata High School-** La Plata, MD, 2018-2022

- Directed curricular ensembles: symphonic band, concert band and string orchestra; extra-curricular ensembles: full orchestra, jazz band, marching band and percussion ensemble.
- Started traditional big-band jazz program with multiple local area performances per year.
- Conducted pit orchestra for musical theater productions.
- Directed competitive marching band (consistently placing in top five in local, state, and national competitions); custom-designed shows with original drill.
- Coordinated group travel and large-scale performances.
- Handled administrative duties and contributed on show design for a county-wide indoor color guard.
- Organized successful fundraisers such as annual antique show, bingo and restaurant nights.

### **Graduate Assistant, Towson University Bands and Orchestra-** Towson, MD, 2022- 2024

- Substituted for large ensemble rehearsals (wind ensemble, symphony orchestra and symphonic band) and conducting classes.
- Conducted one piece per ensemble per semester on average; worked with directors to program works that fit in with overall theme.
- Mentored undergraduate music education majors.
- Oversaw music/instrument distribution and administrative organization for large ensemble classes.

### **Graduate Instructional Staff, Towson University Marching Band-** Towson, MD, 2022- 2024

- Worked with Towson University Marching Band directors and other staff to provide a musically meaningful and positive experience for marching band members.
- During practice, served as a visual and music staff member on the field when needed or contributed to big picture conversations with directors in the booth.
- Conducted pep band at basketball games.
- Collaborated with design team on elements such as prop usage, staging, visuals, and overall show impact.
- Worked with student leaders and director to create a cohesive and approachable visual curriculum.
- Coached brass small ensemble and vocal and string soloists both during and outside of practice.

### **Bluecoats Visual Design and Artistic Direction Fellow- Canton, OH, 2023**

- Selected for fellowship based on portfolio review and interview process, with a focus on visual design, artistic direction and, specifically, drill writing.
- Fellowship provides opportunities to underrepresented communities to gain a foothold in the marching design space.
- Observed Bluecoats visual rehearsals from both a visual teaching and design perspective, learning about the process that the Bluecoats design and educational teams use to bring show concepts to life.
- Mentored by visual designer and artistic director Jon Vanderkolff, both asking questions on his thought process for current and past seasons, and consulting on individual work and career.

### **Visual Caption Head, Plymouth-Whitemarsh Marching Colonials- Plymouth Meeting, PA, 2024-Present**

- Oversees all drill learning and cleaning for competitive drum-corps style band.
- Serves in both a “big picture” role in the press box and on the field as a tech, adjusting as needed per rehearsal.
- Creates comprehensive visual curriculum for students that includes traditional marching basics, dance warm-ups that enhance student physical vocabulary and awareness, and advanced concepts such as jazz running and fluttering.
- Choreographs visuals that reflect musicality and show theme.
- Collaborates with guard and battery staff to incorporate entire band into visual concepts.
- Band achieved undefeated season, becoming the Cavalcade of Bands Independence A Champions earning high visual and high overall effect awards.

### **Research, Presentations, and Guest Speaker Engagements**

**Master’s Thesis-** *Teacher Talk Times, Sequential Patterns, and Feedback in High School Concert and Marching Band Instruction*

**NAfME Biennial National Conference on Music Education Research-** 2024, research poster of master’s thesis

**Maryland Music Educators Association Annual Conference-** 2023, practitioner presentation: “Ensembles as Places of Growth for Students with Disabilities”

**Penn State Music 640, Marching Band Techniques-** 2019, presentation: “Teaching Drum Corps-Style Marching Band as a First Year Teacher”

**Undergraduate Honors Thesis-** completed and submitted in 2018: *Discrimination and Isolation Experienced by Female High School Band Directors*

**Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Annual Conference-** 2018, research presentation of honors thesis

### **Honors, Awards and Professional Memberships**

**Maryland Music Educators Association-** member, 2018-Present

**National Association for Music Education-** member, 2014- Present

**Women Band Directors International, Maryland Chapter-** member, 2021- Present

**Special Education Citizen’s Advisory Committee of Charles County Secondary Teacher Appreciation Award-** recipient, 2019

**Maryland Band Directors Association-** member, 2018-Present

**Maryland Orchestra Directors Association-** member, 2018-Present

**Schreyer Honors Scholar-** 2014-2018

**Pennsylvania Music Educators’ Association-** member, 2014- 2018

**Sigma Alpha Iota International Fraternity-** Eta Phi chapter, member, 2015-2017; vice president of membership, 2017