

Professional Bio



For

Jerrold E. Burdick-Rutz

Great Oak High School

Jerry Burdick-Rutz is currently in his thirteenth year (2004-Present) as the architect and Director of The *SPIRIT* of Great Oak Performing Ensembles:

www.spiritofgreateoak.com

Prior to Great Oak, he began his career as the architect and Director of the Platinum Sound Ensembles at Temecula-Chaparral High School (1997-2004).

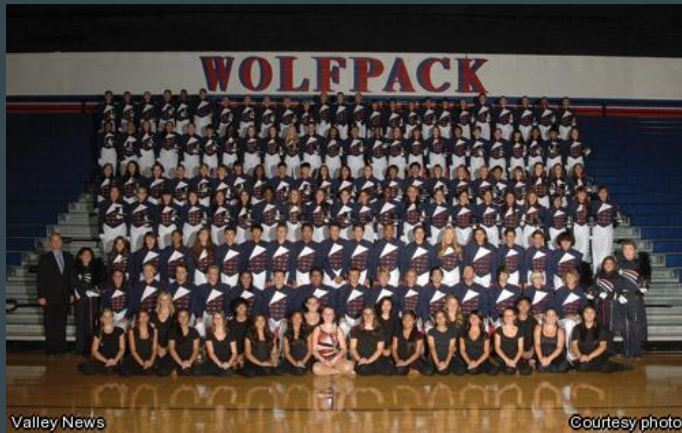
www.platinumsound.org

Mr. Burdick-Rutz was selected as “Visual and Performing Arts Chair,” when Great Oak High School opened in 2004. Great Oak is the third and newest comprehensive high school in the Temecula Valley Unified School District.

It was during the planning stages of the school that Mr. Burdick-Rutz suggested ***SPIRIT*** as an acronym for Great Oak High School, a nickname he sought for the music ensembles.

SPIRIT

**An acronym
with a vision...**



SScholarship

PPassion

IIntegrity

RReflection

IInvolvement

TTeamwork

Great Oak High School Program Development & Awards

Mr. Burdick-Rutz Directs several performing ensembles at Great Oak High School. As many as eight ensembles are active in performances and competitions at the same time throughout the school year:

- 1. The Award Winning Spirit of Great Oak Marching Band & Color Guard**
- 2. The Award Winning Great Oak HS Jazz Ensembles**
- 3. The Jazz Combo Group "Soul Tree"**
- 4. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble**
- 5. The Varsity Winter Color Guard**
- 6. The Junior Varsity Winter Color Guard**
- 7. The Winter Drum Line**

Mr. Burdick-Rutz has incorporated academic courses in the music department including:

- 1. Advanced Placement Music Theory**
- 2. International Baccalaureate Music**

Mr. Burdick-Rutz's teaching awards:

- 1. *The Who's Who of Teachers* in 2001, 2004, 2006, and 2011.**
- 2. 2006-2016 Crystal Apple award nominee**
- 3. 2008 Great Oak High School Teacher of the Year**
- 4. 2008 Temecula Valley Unified School District Teacher of the Year**
- 5. 2010-11 Inland Valley Top Ten Teacher**
- 6. 2015 Awarded Stanford University mentor teacher award.**

Education

Mr. Burdick-Rutz grew up in Michigan where he attended middle school at Hayes Middle School and was a member of the Int. & Adv. Band Program under the Direction of Eileen Houston.

He attended and graduated from the award winning [Grand Ledge High School Band Program](#): <http://www.glhsbands.com/> under the Direction of Michael Kaufman.

He went on to earn his Bachelor of Music Education Degree from [Michigan State University](#): <http://spartanband.net/> where he participated in:

1. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble
2. The Symphonic Band
3. Percussion Ensemble; Winter Drumline
4. The Spartan Marching Band: Drumline: 1990-1993;
5. The Spartan Marching Band Drum Major 1994-1995



*The Spartan Marching Band
(1990-1994)*

Kappa Kappa Psi Honorary Service Fraternity

Mr. Burdick-Rutz was nominated and inducted into the Honorary Band Service Fraternity Kappa Kappa Psi in the Spring of 1991.

He was an active member of the Michigan State University “Zeta Epsilon,” Chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi from 1991-1994.

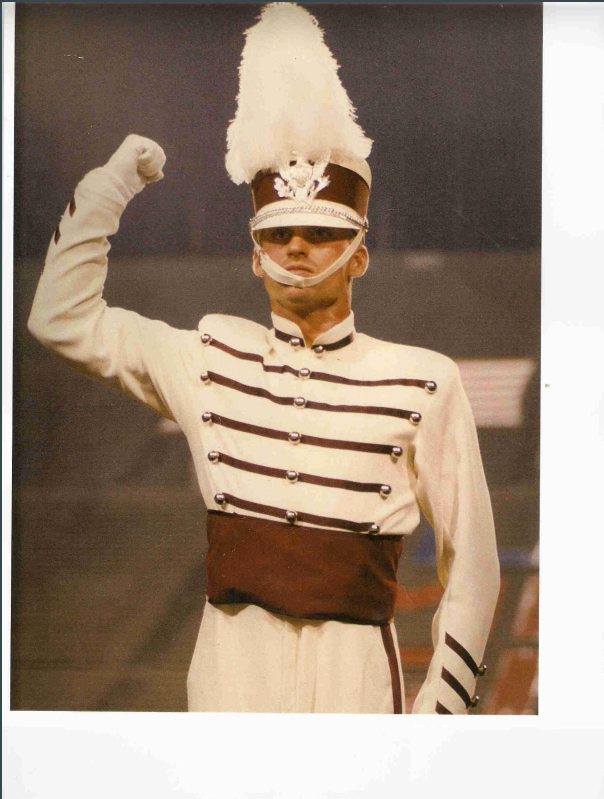
He served on the executive board in 1992-94 as the Secretary.

He served as on the executive board as the President of the Chapter in 1994-95.

*Fraternity through
Service to the Bands...s*



The Cadets Drum & Bugle Corps



*1993 Drum Corps International World Championships,
Jackson MS (1993 World Champion)*

Mr. Burdick-Rutz performed in The Ten-Time World Champion Cadets of Bergen County Drum and Bugle Corps when they were headquartered in Bergenfield, NJ.

As Drum Major, they won the World Championship in 1993

1992: Drumline

1993: Drum Major





George N Parks DRUM MAJOR ACADEMY®

Band Leadership & Drum Major Clinician

Mr. Burdick-Rutz served as a clinician at several Drum Major and Band Leadership camps and workshops including:

The Michigan State University Band & Drum Major Camps (1990-1996)

The George N. Parks Drum Major Academy at the University of Ohio (1994)

The University of New Mexico Band & Drum Major workshop (1995-1997)

Chico State University Band and Drum Major Leadership Camp (2000-2003)

“The Star of Nevada,” Band and Drum Major Elite Camp at UNLV (2002-2004)



Masters of Music Education

Mr. Burdick-Rutz served as the Graduate Assistant to the Athletic Bands at the *University of New Mexico* in Albuquerque, NM: 1995-1997.



Roles Served

Director of the Community Wind Ensemble and...

Assistant to the Director of The *Spirit Marching Band* and *Sound Pack* Basketball Band.

From Temecula, California

*The **SPiRiT** of Great Oak*

Great Oak High School and the Spirit Band & Guard is completing its thirteenth year. The program has grown from the original 50 members in 2004 to a program today of over 250 members. They have been recognized as an outstanding program throughout the state, nation, and internationally, having earned superior ratings at festivals, placing in the top five at competitions, and for hosting several guest composers, clinicians, and artists.



Group Achievement



The ***SPiRiT*** of Great Oak Ensembles continuously test themselves through many high caliber performances and competitions.

The performances place a high level of expectations on the students. The list and slides that follow, represents just a few of the achievements the ensembles have achieved over the thirteen year school history at the local, regional, state, national and international level.

The Spirit of Great Oak Placed 5th overall in Southern California, while the Drum Line Placed 1st!

2016 Winter Guard Assoc. of Southern Cal Varsity Winter Guard Championship Gold Medalists!

2016 Southern California Percussion Alliance PSO Winter Drum Line Silver Medalists

2016 Winter Guard Association of Southern California SA Jr. Varsity Winter Guard Bronze Medalists

2016 *SCSBOA* Championships

Spirit Band & Guard - 5th Place

The Spirit Drumline - 1st Place

SCSBOA Championship Finals
Riverside Ramona High School





2016 SCSBOA Championships

Winter Guard *Gold*

In 2016 The Great Oak High School Varsity Winter Guard earned the Premier Gold Medal for the Spirit of Great Oak Ensembles in the Winter Guard Assoc. of Southern California Championship Finals!



**2016
CHAMPION**



*2016 La Grande Parade
de Paris
on the
Champs-Élysée*



2014-2015

2015 Jazz Ensemble
Performance at The American
Cathedral - Paris, France

2015 Winter Drum Line
Championships: Bronze
Medalists

2015 Unanimous Superior
Ratings at the SCSBOA Band
& Orchestra Festival

2015 Welcomed guest
Musicians, the United States
Marine Jazz Band

2014 Welcomed guest artist
and Jazz clinician Delfeayo
Marsalis



2013-14

World Champions



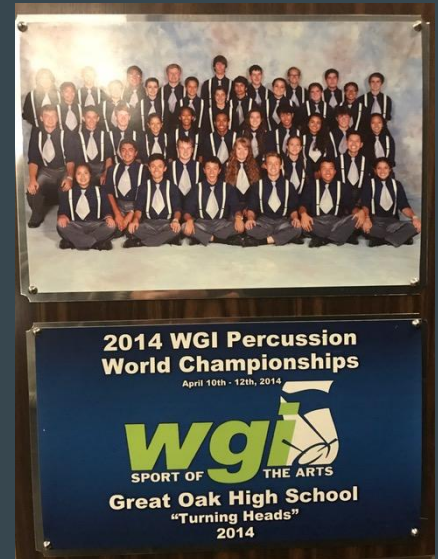
2014 Winter Drumline
Southern California
Percussion Alliance
State Finalists

2014 Winter Guard
Association of
Southern California
Silver Medalists

2014 The Great Oak
Symphonic Band
earned Unanimous
Superior Ratings in
the SCSBOA

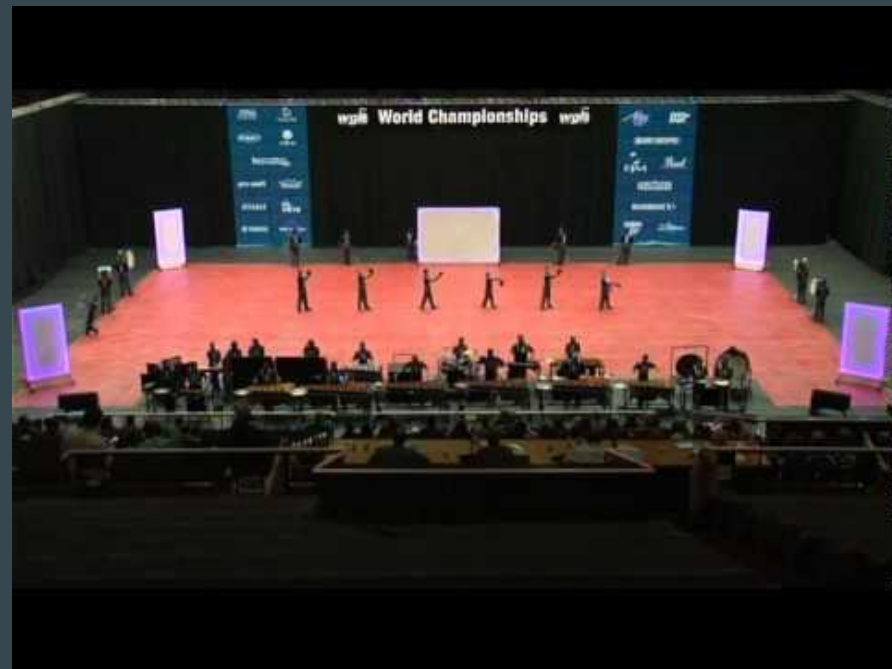
2014 Winter Drumline
International
Championships in
Dayton, Ohio.

Finalists & 7th Place
overall in the World





2014 WGI World Finalists



7th Place in the World

2013 LNYDP



www.alamy.com - D1P91E

Whitehall and Trafalgar Square

2013 Her Majesty the
Queen of England
London's New Year's
Day Parade; UK

2012 The Great Oak
Jazz Ensemble
Performance in
London's Cadogan
Hall

2012 The Spirit of
Great Oak Marching
Band Open Series
Championship Finalist

2012 Winter Drumline
SCPA State Bronze
Medalists

2012 Superior Rating
at the SCSBOA
Concert Band Festival





“Soul Tree”
Performance at Cadogan Hall

The ***SPiRiT*** of Great
Oak

Performance in the

2013 London

New Year's Day

Parade



The Spirit of Great Oak
Marches on historic
Trafalgar Square



London's New Year's Day Parade, 2013.



National Bowl Game
& Parade Experiences
in Phoenix Arizona

2006-07

The Fiesta Bowl
National Band
Championships
and Parade



2010-11



The National Memorial Day Parade

Bicentennial
Celebration of
Abraham Lincoln

Washington D.C.
2009



Memorial Day 2009



Great Oak Wreath Dedication



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



City of Temecula

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Michael S. Naggar
Mayor

Maryann Edwards
Mayor Pro-Tem

Jeff Comercho
Council Member

Ronald H. Roberts
Council Member

Chuck Washington
Council Member

951-506-5100
FAX 951-694-6499

May 5, 2008

Jerry Burdick-Rutz
Great Oak High School
32555 Deer Hollow Way
Temecula, CA 92592

Dear Jerry:

Congratulations on being named a Teacher of the Year in the Temecula Unified School District. You have been recognized by your peers, your principal, your administrators, and the superintendent for your outstanding leadership, caring attitude, and exceptional work as a team leader at your site and in the District. This is a well deserved tribute to your commitment and dedication.

With so many negative influences tempting our kids every day, it is wonderful to know they have a positive and rich environment in your classroom where they can learn and grow.

I am so proud to live and work in a community that recognizes those who have placed service above self. I appreciate your hard work and dedication more than I can say.

Sincerely,

Maryann Edwards
Maryann Edwards
Council Member

Love for you!!

2008 Teacher of the Year



District taps 3 as teachers of the year

■ Elementary educator 'deeply honored' by district recognition

school prepared." Jerry Burdick-Rutz, the director of instrumental music at Great Oak High School, took the top honor among high school teachers.

RANI GUPTA
Staff Writer

TEMECULA — Three teachers have been named the top educators of the year in the Temecula Valley Unified School District.

One of the honorees, Teri Davis of Susan LaVergne Elementary, was one of the more than 200 Temecula teachers to receive preliminary layoff notices in March as part of an effort to cut 111 teaching positions because of state budget cuts.

But Davis, who is in her third year at LaVergne, is hopeful that she will keep her job because of her relatively high position on the seniority list used to determine which teachers will lose their jobs.

Davis said she was "surprised and deeply honored" by the recognition.

"I was just very, very honored," she said. "I just keep telling my colleagues I feel like I'm a work in progress. I feel like there's a million and one things I could add."

A third-grade teacher, Davis also serves as director of a mentoring program that pairs at-risk students with trained volunteers.

Among middle school teachers, the winner was Katie Kearney, a seventh-grade language arts teacher at Day Middle School. Kearney, who has been teaching for 22 years, says many others deserve part of the credit.

"Obviously it's an honor, but it's one that you share with a lot of other teachers," she said. "It's not just me, it's the administration and the families that make sure the children come to

"We've got so many stars at the school and at the district," he said, "and to be mentioned in the same light as those folks makes me very proud."

Burdick-Rutz, who starred his teaching career in 1997 at Chaparral High School, said he teaches seven to 10 classes at a time, from the concert bands and jazz ensemble to college-level Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate music courses.

"It's a job of many hats," he said. Every year, all schools select their own teacher of the year. Superintendent Carol Leighty and the four assistant superintendents select the three districtwide honorees from the school winners.

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Contact staff writer Rani Gupta at (951) 676-4315, Ext. 2635, or rg.gpta@californian.com.

School, District and City Recognition



Community Activist



Mr. Burdick-Rutz and many members of the Spirit of Great Oak rallied, performed, and coordinated several events with “Save our Southwest Hills”



September 11th Remembered with Music

By Denise Haerr

"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music." Who knew that Aldous Huxley's words would so precisely describe the 9-11 Remembrance that was held at the Temecula Duck Pond. Inspired by these words, *The September Concert* was born. This first anniversary of this unforgettable event, *The September Concert* has become a tradition. Since then, the message of peace through music has spread. Cities across the nation, as well as international cities, joined to fill the skies with music.

Through the efforts of the City of Temecula, the Temecula Sister City Association and Great Oak High School's Music Department, our September 11th skies were bursting with the most beautiful, meaningful music. Hundreds of people united to remember and express hope. GOHS provided music that helped the community express the inexpressible with a selection of patriotic and poignant songs. Eyes were wiped and some sang the words "There's pride in every American heart and it's time we stand and say: I'm

proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free," when Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA" was played.

More pride was shown when Webelos Pack 301 led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance as we all stared at the flags at half mast. Speeches were given. More music was played. The firefighters who came, but had to leave abruptly, were cheered with a large, collective applause.

As the sun was setting, two lone musicians, separated by the pond, played Taps. The 24 notes, that evoke such emotion, were an eloquent and haunting conclusion to the evening and as the last rays of sun disappeared, hundreds of candles were set afloat. For this day of awareness and remembrance of the slain, missing and injured, the community lit a candle in their memory. The floating lights representing our hope for a better world and our commitment to never forget the tragedy that shook America but left it standing stronger and holding each other tighter.

I left the Duck Pond with a new sense of hope and a greater love of my community. Grief shared is always easier to endure.

A CROWD AGAINST A QUARRY



EDWARD HANNIGAN / FOR THE CALIFORNIAN

Temecula City Council members Maryann Edwards and Jeff Comerchero, who said they were acting as private citizens, lead a march protesting against a plan to build a quarry near the city. The marchers left Temecula Valley High School and walked to Ronald Reagan Sports Park for a rally that drew about 1,000 people.

About 1,000 people join rally

DEIRDRE NEWMAN
Staff Writer

TEMECULA — Like knights ready to engage in battle to defend their king's realm, opponents of a quarry south of Temecula came out in force Sunday. About 1,000 people showed up for a protest pa-

rade and rally to demonstrate that they have the requisite mettle to fight for their cherished way of life, which they believe is threatened by the project.

"It's sad that we have to fight a new battle, but we do it to preserve the quality of life," said City Councilman Jeff Comerchero, speaking as a private citi-

zen in addressing the participants.

The protesters' insignia was made up of orange T-shirts with the words "No Gravel Quarry" and a drawing of a transport truck with a slash through it. Their fight song was provided courtesy of the Great Oak High School marching band that trumpeted the walk

from Temecula Valley High School to Ronald Reagan Sports Park.

Their message of opposition to Granite Construction's project was as loud and clear as the band's symbols: This is not the place for a mining operation; take it somewhere else.

➤ RALLY, A-4



EDWARD HANNIGAN / FOR THE CALIFORNIAN

Members of the Great Oak High School band blast their horns during Sunday's march.

'How intelligent do you need to be to figure out what you want and don't want next to you? No one would say we want a garbage dump next to us, and we don't want a mine, either.'

— JEFF COMERCHERO
Temecula City Councilman

Famous Quotes

"This will remain the land of the free
only so long as it is the home of the brave."

— Elmer Davis —

It takes a Village...

Giving back to those who give..

Saying “thank you,” with a front yard performance

School News THE CALIFORNIAN **B**

School bands hold benefit concert

AMY BENTLEY
FOR THE CALIFORNIAN

Hundreds of student musicians gathered at Great Oak High School in Temecula on Wednesday night for an evening performance, but this was no battle of the bands.

Great Oak's marching band, the Spirit of Great Oak Band & Guard, held the musical extravaganza as a food drive for the Temecula Food Pantry. And on Thursday, the Great Oak band's trailer — packed with bags of canned goods and non-perishable items — delivered the bounty to the pantry.

“We're thrilled to death with anybody who is out there collecting food,” said the pantry's director, Margie Hammersley, who was told in advance about the event.

With the recession in full force and the Inland Empire struck by massive home foreclosures and job losses, Hammersley said more people have been coming to the pantry for food this year compared with last year. For the same reasons, donations to the pantry are down from last year, she said. Charities, foundations and organizations that distribute food to the needy all over the country have been reporting the same trends: more need, but a decline in donations.

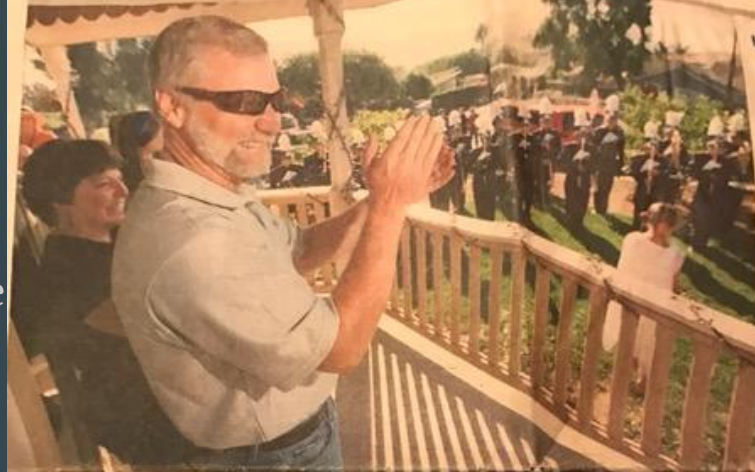
Bearing that in mind, the Great Oak students came up with the idea of having a big band bonanza and asking visitors to bring at least

► **CONCERT, B-2**

Lena Victorino, 18, plays oversized chimes for Fallbrook High School's marching band at the second annual Preview of Champions Field Show Performance on Wednesday at Great Oak High School in Temecula.

ANDREW FOULK / FOR THE CALIFORNIAN

Collecting donations for family fire victims



Craig Fowler and his wife, Jan, far left, applaud the Great Oak High School marching band from their front porch as they perform for the Fowlers at their home in Carlsbad on Saturday. Photos by HAYNE PALMAQUIRY | hpalm@californian.com

REGION

SURROUND SOUND

Great Oak High School band thanks backer with surprise concert

By LUCIA WALINCHUS
lwalinchus@californian.com

Craig and Jan Fowler looked out of their Carlsbad home Saturday and saw their quiet suburban street transformed into center stage, as a cadre of 120 band members marched onto their lawn in perfect unison.

The Great Oak High School marching band came down from Temecula to play for the Fowlers, belting out tunes such as “The Hey Song,” the school's fight song, and a musical homage to Edgar Allan Poe's poem “The Raven.”

Band Director Jerry Burdick-Rutz said he decided to perform the



The Great Oak High School marching band marches down Highland Drive toward the home of Craig and Jan Fowler in Carlsbad for a surprise performance on Saturday.

See Sound, Page B8

Teaching Lives through Music

TO
TEACH
IS TO TOUCH A
LIFE
FOREVER

Dear Mr. Burdick,

I just want to thank you for everything you've done for me & my brother Jesse these past years. I thank you even more for helping out Jesse when times were rough for him last year. He was very depressed & almost hurt himself but you were there to help him. Jesse means a lot to me like he's my best friend & if you weren't there to help him then he probably wouldn't be here today. I think that not only were you an amazing teacher to him, but you were more of a father to him & that's what he really needed in his life. I've only had you for a teacher for 2 years, but it seems like 4 years. You've made this year so exciting & fun & a lot of people could agree with me. You've pushed us to the very end & I thank you. I love you very much & I will miss you. Thanks for being an amazing teacher, father, & friend to everyone.

-Kellie