

## Stephen B. Visnage

Mr. Visnage is the Orchestra Director at Perkins School of the Arts in St. Petersburg, Florida. He is also a teaching artist and conductor with the Sarasota Youth Orchestra in Sarasota, Florida. He has been a music educator for more than 30 years as well as an adjudicator with the Florida Marching Band Coalition for the last 10 years and consults with high school bands around the state of Florida. Mr. Visnage has also been a presenter and mentor in his district working alongside young music teachers to help develop their craft.

Mr. Visnage received his music education graduate from the University of South Florida in Tampa and studied conducting with Dr. Mallory Thompson during her tenure at USF. After graduation, Mr. Visnage started in the general music classroom at the Elementary level. He soon transitioned to secondary music education teaching middle school band and then became the director of bands at Cypress Creek High School in Orlando, Florida. During his time at Cypress Creek the band program was known in the state as a powerhouse program with over 300 students. Under Mr. Visnage's direction Cypress Creek marching band was named state champion all 3 years of his tenure, was a Bands of America regional finalists, and made the school's first and only appearance at the Bands of America Grand Nationals in Indianapolis. The wind ensemble also received Superior ratings at district and state levels.

Mr. Visnage held a great passion for the drum corps activity and spent his summers working with groups around the country including: The Colts, Suncoast Sound, Magic of Orlando, and was the Brass Caption Head with the Boston Crusaders in 2003 and 2004. During his time at Boston, he completed his master's degree in Music Education, also at the University of South Florida, under the tutelage of Dr. William Weidrick.

Beyond his music world, Mr. Visnage is also a seasoned kiteboarder and sponsored by Cabrinha Kiteboarding from Hawaii. He is married to his wife, Erin Visnage, and they have two beautiful daughters, 10 and 17.