

Mr. Ronald A. Stary, BHS Band Director, is in his twenty-first year of teaching music. He started in South Dakota, on the Cheyenne-Eagle Butte Reservation, where he met his wife Dawn. Their family includes three children and one dog. Ben and Amanda live in the Twin Cities, and Adam is a senior at BHS.

Mr. Stary's most recent teaching post in Montevideo saw historic budget reductions that drew him and his family to Brookings. While at MHS, the bands toured New York-Boston, Southern California, St. Louis, and Washington D.C. Under his direction, the MHS Jazz Band won several MSHSL section 12AA "best at site" contest awards, and held the annual "flood of jazz" show. Every year of his tenure, MHS had students in All-State Band and superior ratings at Large group festival. In 2009, he started the "212 Regiment", a combined Marching band with Montevideo & Yellow Medicine East schools that competed in the Minnesota parade circuit.

Mr. Stary grew up in Saint Paul, Minnesota. His love for music started at age 11 in the St. Paul Scouts Drum & Bugle. His Band director at Como Park Senior High was jazz saxophonist, Mr. Alton Burns. Mr. Stary marched in the "27th Lancers", a top 10 DCI drum & bugle corps from Boston, Mass. He returned to the Midwest and graduated from the University of Minnesota- Minneapolis with a bachelor's degree in music education, studying conducting under Dr. Richard Hansen and trombone under Mr. Steven Lund. While at the "U", he had the honor of playing in the top jazz ensemble and touring Scandinavia-Russia with the wind ensemble under Director of Bands Emeritus, the late Dr. Frank Bencrisutto. Mr. Stary is a member of BEA, SDMEA, MENC and SD Band Masters Association.