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**Hopatcong Borough Schools**

**Press Release**

# **Hopatcong Music Teachers Leading the Way for Arts Integration and STEAM**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, March 6, 2017**

Cynthia Randina, Hopatcong Superintendent of Schools, Announces

Hopatcong Middle School music teachers, Mrs. Shawna Longo and Mr. Kurt Zimmermann, presented a workshop for the New Jersey Principal and Supervisor's Association (NJPSA) on Thursday, March 2, 2017 at the FEA Conference Center in Monroe, NJ. The workshop, *"Introduction to High Quality Arts Integration"* focused on how these veteran music teachers have successfully collaborated with teachers in their district to increase student engagement and creativity across the curriculum. The purpose of the workshop was to provide a contemporary vision of how arts integration can improve school culture and deepen the learning process for students in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It also have a blueprint for building a quality STEAM program and recommendations for successful implementation. The veteran teachers also gave hands-on experiences with lessons that helped participants learn practical teaching practices to implement this work at their school.

Mrs. Longo and Mr. Zimmermann have individually and collaboratively presented numerous professional development workshops over the years throughout New Jersey. Mrs. Longo is the Chorus Director, Drama Director, General Music teacher, and STEAM Facilitator at Hopatcong Middle School, teaching grades 6-8 with a focus on music technology and performance. Mr. Zimmermann is the Band Director and STEAM Facilitator at Hopatcong Middle School and Hopatcong High School, directing the instrumental programs for grades 6-12. Their combined classroom and administrative experiences have helped bring enthusiasm and success to the arts integration and STEAM programs in Hopatcong.

