

Mr. Jorge A. Benitez has been the Director of Bands at Havelock High School, in Havelock NC, since 1994. He currently directs approximately 200 students per year, in many different ensembles including Jazz Ensemble, Marching Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Indoor guard and Indoor percussion. Mr. Benitez is a graduate from East Carolina University with a Bachelor of Music in 1994 (magna cum laude) and a Master of Music Education 1999. In 2003, Mr. Benitez received his National Board Certification.

Mr. Benitez has served in the North Carolina Army National Guard for ten years. His experiences in the military led him to the deserts of Saudi Arabia during operation Desert Shield/Storm. After 7 years as a military policeman with 213th Military Police Company, he then completed his career with 440th Army National Guard Band.

He participates in the Eastern District Concert Festivals and East Region Jazz Festivals every year, with multiple bands per year and has consistently received Superior and Excellent ratings. Mr. Benitez is an active clinician and adjudicator for marching, concert and jazz band festivals throughout North Carolina and Virginia. He has been invited to be a guest clinician for numerous All County bands. He also spends one week during the summer assisting to provide a safe and fun summer camp at East Carolina University.

Mr. Benitez is a dedicated and committed teacher with a strong desire to teach music to young students. "Music has the ability to transform life's emotions. The notes on the page are just the beginning. Music is so much more. Teaching music makes life very fulfilling, it's a great way to live your life."

Mr. Benitez has a wonderful wife, Lyn Benitez, who works with the instrumental program providing any type of visual design needed; Marching Band show design, Colorguard and Indoor guard. They also have 3 beautiful children; Analise, Mariela and Braedon.

Awards:

- 2018 Community Fabric Award winner
- 2016 Trailblazer of Excellence
- 2015 Bojangles Teacher of the month
- 2012 WITN Teacher of the week
- 2012 Havelock High School Ram Award
- 2010 Craven County Board of Education Spotlight
- 2009 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year (Local Area)
- 2009 Eastern District Bandmasters Association Award of Excellence
- 2009 Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary "Teacher of the Year"
- 2008 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year (Local Area)
- 2007 "**I Love Havelock Award**" presented by the Havelock Chamber
- 2004 National Society of High School Scholars
- 2002 Education Spotlight Selectee
- 1999-2000 "Excellence in Teaching" award
- Time Warner cable's "Star teacher"

Professional organizations and positions:

- American School Band Directors Association
- National Association for Music Education
- North Carolina Bandmasters Association – Eastern District
 - High School Contest Chairperson 2003 - current
 - President –Elect 2005-2007
 - President 2007- 2009
 - Past President 2009-2011

Guest conducted:

- 2013 Edgecombe All-County High School Band
- 2013 Pender County School HS All County Band
- 2012 Middle School All-City Bands 7th Grade Band Chesapeake Va.
- 2011 East Region "B" Band Jazz Clinic
- 2010 New Hanover High School All County Band Festival
- 2009 Nash All County HS Band
- 2009 Columbus All-County High School Band
- 2009 Albemarle Band Clinic
- 2009 Central Jazz Region "B" Band

- 2008 Pitt All-County High School Band
- 2007 Edgecombe All-County High School Band
- 2006 Beaufort All-County High School Honors Band
- 2005 Onslow All County High School Honors Band
- 2003 North Carolina Eastern District 9-10 Concert Band
- 2001 Wayne County Public Schools Band Festival

Adjudication:

- 2017 Greene Central HS Band Competition Marching Band Adjudicator
- 2016 Corinth Holders Pirate Invitational marching Band Adjudicator
- 2015 VBOBA Marching Assessment Adjudicator
- 2014 NC West Region Jazz Music Performance Adjudication Adjudicator
- 2014 VBODA District II Concert Band Performance Assessment Adjudicator
- 2013 District IV VBODA Concert Band Performance Assessment Adjudicator
- 2012 White Oak Band Classic Marching Band Adjudicator
- 2012 Princess Anne Band Classic Adjudicator
- 2011 Monarch Invitational Marching Band Adjudicator
- 2010 NC Southeastern District MS Concert Band Festival
- 2009 White Oak Band Classic Marching Band Adjudicator
- 2008 Central District Jazz Festival Adjudicator
- 2007 White Oak Band Classic Marching Band Adjudicator
- 2005 Farmville Band Classic Marching Band Adjudicator
- 2005 NC Southeastern District HS Concert Band Festival Adjudicator