



**Melissa A. Schoonover**, received her Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music Education from the University of Illinois. In 2001, she joined the staff of the Joliet Grade Schools Music Department. Since the commencement of her tenure in Joliet, she has also been co-director of the Joliet All City Orchestra, a district-wide honors ensemble. Under Miss Schoonover's leadership, the Washington Jr. High Orchestra performed at the 2009 Illinois Music Education Conference in Peoria. She is often sought out as a judge for music contests; and in the fall of 2011 was the guest conductor for the ILMEA District 2 Jr. Festival Orchestra. In 2013, Miss Schoonover was awarded the Chicagoland Outstanding Music Educator Award. Miss Schoonover holds membership in the National Association for Music Educators (NAfME), the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA), the Illinois Grade School Music Association (IGSMA), the American String Teachers Association (ASTA), Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity for Women, and Golden Key International Honor Society. She has previously served as the chairperson for IGSMA District VI and as the orchestra chair for the IMEA District I junior division. Currently, Miss Schoonover is principal cellist of the Joliet Symphony Orchestra and performs with the Jen Stedman Quartet.