

DR. JOHN NEWMAN

Dr. John Newman has taught theatre and math at Highland High School for the past eighteen years. He earned his B.F.A. and M.Ed. at the University of Utah, his M.A. in theatre for youth at the University of Texas, and his Ph.D. in educational theatre at New York University. In addition to scores of productions at Highland, he has directed two French Language Plays for the University of Utah and the world premiere of The End of Oz for the Open Eye Theater in New York. Dr. Newman has authored dozens of articles and reviews for national periodicals including Teaching Theatre, The Children's Book and Play Review, TYA Today, Stage of the Art, Theatre Studies, Dialogue, and Insight/Incite. He is the founder and director of the American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE) Playwrights In Our Schools program, which has created playwright residencies in secondary schools and connected student writers with professional playwright mentors across the country. Dr. Newman has received three national teaching awards, including the NFHS's Outstanding Theatre Educator Award, AATE's John C. Barner Teacher of the Year Award, and most recently the first-ever Reba R. Robertson Award from the Children's Theatre Foundation of America. Dr. Newman has served as drama representative and president of the Utah Speech Arts Association and served a three-year term as an original board member for SL-SPA.

As a playwright, Dr. Newman is the author of four published plays, including The Secret School that premiered at Highland and is now published by Dramatic Publishing. His verse dramas have had readings and productions in California, Colorado, Idaho, Texas, Wisconsin, New Jersey, and New York and he has adapted novels to the stage for three Newbery medallists: Avi, Paul Fleischman, and Richard Peck. In the past seven years at Highland, Dr. Newman has developed and premiered over a dozen new plays by major writers for young people, including Sandy Asher, Moses Goldberg, and Doug Cooney, five of which have now been published and one of which has received the AATE Distinguished Play Award, the highest recognition a play for young audiences can receive. Newman is in the process of developing a new musical by Tina Lear and Elise Forier with students from both SL-SPA and Highland.