

## Jeremy Boudreaux

### Co-Founder, Percussion Instructor

I can't remember when I started learning to play music. My father and uncle are musicians, who kept our house full of country tunes. For me, playing an instrument was as familiar as playing with GI Joe. Drumsticks became a steady home for my hands, a way to express any feeling. Mastering the tenor drums became my mission in the Iowa High School and McNeese State University Marching Bands. In college, my appreciation for music broadened when I studied how classical music is still the undertone for many of my childhood favorite rock and country songs. Later, I played with a band called The Groove Knights and discovered my passion for jazz and soul. Performing live with metal bands, Sekrum, Until Death and Usurper gave me some of my most memorable human experiences, setting me on fire in a way that only music can. On the flipside, my heart was softened by the many avenues of music when I became a percussion instructor in 2005, working with high school marching bands. At Jennings High School I started an indoor percussion group and witnessed them earn a State Championship in 2016. I'm currently honored to be the Band Director at Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School and continue working with Jennings High School Marching Band. All of these kids have brought a new fire to my life, a focus on the next generation, the future and how a Cajun man like me who just likes to hold drum sticks could change the course of their life and let them know someone really cares about them. I found that speeches more suitable for battle really motivated them and 5 minutes of listening affected major life decisions they would make. Young or old, music saves lives. It helped me battle cancer, anchored my family life and is a language my young daughter understands when words don't work. Aside from music, I'm a history and book nerd. My favorite way to relax is to turn up some Cajun or French music and cook a gumbo, followed by reading about the massive challenges my ancestors faced that allow me to live in comfort and freedom. My Acadian ancestry drives me to care for our environment, my family and my health. I'm a member of the Lake Charles Powerlifting Team and see a link between taking care of myself and others. When I'm healthy I have so much more to give. And I plan to give my students everything I've got.