

Thomas Stroth
Clarence Middle School
TEPS Abstract
Percussive Arts Society International Convention
November 19, 2025

From November 12th through the 15th, I had the good fortune to attend the 50th Annual Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC) in Indianapolis, IN. Over the course of the four days, a variety of performances were given by college and professional ensembles, and clinics were presented by professionals in the field of percussion.

Among the clinics I attended was one entitled "Practice Makes Permanent: Teaching and Learning Through Focus". The presenters state that "Breakthroughs in neuroscience have improved our understanding of brain and nervous system function and motor skill acquisition, and applying these principles helps us develop our abilities more quickly." The session provided several methods through which one can improve the efficiency of practice, utilizing time spent on tasks in the most effective manner.

Another clinic was presented by Michael Rosen, former principal percussionist of the Milwaukee Symphony and Emeritus Professor of Percussion at Oberlin Conservatory of Music. His session on crash cymbal playing covered not only the various types of cymbals available (Germanic, Viennese and French) and their appropriate uses, but also several specific techniques for playing them.

Through these and other clinics I attended, I have come away from PASIC 2025 with ideas and tools that I will incorporate into my teaching of Clarence Middle School student percussionists. Many thanks to Dr. Frahm and the TEPS Committee for making my attendance possible.