Verlene “Beanie” Stotts received her B.M.E. from Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, and M.M. in Clarinet Performance from New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico. She has been teaching band at Discovery Middle School in Fargo, North Dakota, since 1994. Before that, she taught for five years at Klein Intermediate School in Houston, Texas. Along with her teaching duties at Discovery, she has conducted the Symphonic Band at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN.

Beanie received the North Dakota National Band Association Allegro Band Award in 1995, the NDNBA Citation of Excellence Award in 2007, and she was awarded the 2018 North Dakota Music Educators Association Educator of the Year, and received The North Dakota Band Directors Association Distinguished Service Award in 2026. Professional Affiliations include the National Band Association, the North Dakota Band Directors Association, the National Association for Music Education, the North Dakota Music Educators’ Association, the Minnesota Band Directors Association, and the North Dakota Chapter of Phi Beta Mu National Bandmasters Fraternity.

She has had the opportunity to work with students of all ability levels through solo and ensemble adjudication and has been invited to serve as a guest clinician for honor bands, providing meaningful instruction and mentorship to developing musicians.

In addition to her duties at Discovery, she enjoys teaching in her private clarinet studio, cooking, shopping for “deals”, as well as spending time with family and friends. She resides in Moorhead, Minnesota, with her husband Bob. Together, they have five children (Matt, Ryan, Allison, Bjorn, and Sam), four grandchildren (Ava, Carsyn, Xander, and Lilah), and one grand puppy named Bella.