



Welcome to Music Class!

2017-2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

My name is Abby Brockamp and it is my pleasure to be teaching music this year at VICS. I look forward to a great year jam packed with learning, new musical experiences, and (drum roll please) choir!

I'm a recent Magnum Cum Laude graduate of Syracuse University where I received a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and a Minor in Drama. Though I am trained as a performer, I have always had a love for teaching and have worked with several different age groups and abilities. Some of those experiences include: Syracuse Children's Chorus, college level musical theatre coaching, private vocal instruction, children's music camps, and music with people with disabilities. Born and raised in Salem, I am grateful to have the opportunity to return to the area and teach what I love. I will also be Music Directing at North Salem High School for their December show, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.

Music classes will be Tuesday and Thursday. During this time your child will learn about rhythm, melody, and expressive elements. Within these large units from the district we will be learning several other aspects in music. We will be listening, discussing, and performing world music genres (poly-rhythms of Africa, Gamelan music of Indonesia, and more!) Grades 3-5 will be spending 3-4 weeks learning to play the recorder while K-2 will be learning the xylophone. We will also be focusing on solfege with hand signs to learn how to sight sing. Other fun mini-units include exposure to symphonic music, acapella, opera, musical theatre, and marching band.



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Ensuring that every student is gaining confidence is very important to me. Music can be scary, especially for students who don't feel they are musically inclined or for students who are extremely shy. It's my goal to make the music room an inviting, safe space where mistakes and vulnerabilities become learning experiences. There is only one type of failure in music, and that is simply not trying!

I hope to implement the IB Attitudes and Dovetail Tools into the learning environment, as well as using ENVoY for classroom management. Being safe, respectful, and responsible is important to us at VICS and the music room is no different. I plan to use a "control panel" to help students turn those three words into actions and results. In my classroom "control panel" there is Body Control (using instruments properly, keeping hands to self, etc.), Voice Control (maintaining a light lovely singing voice, using proper voice levels for activities, etc.), and Tracking (following directions, keeping your belly-button on the teacher, etc.) I also plan on having grades 3-5 help create their own expectations under the three "control panel" categories.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me throughout the school year. I can be reached at VICS main office number, 503-399-3150 or by email at abby.brockamp@gmail.com

I look forward to this year and can't wait to get to know your child and see them blossom in music!

Best,

Abby Brockamp (Miss B)