

Livingston Elementary School

Music Making a Difference!



I am very excited to be returning to Livingston Elementary as the music teacher. I taught first grade here at Livingston for 6 years. It is a privilege and honor to serve the students in Newton County. The main objectives for this year are to increase musical opportunities for students, increase parent involvement, and, most of all, have fun learning new concepts/information about music and music history.

The music department of Livingston Elementary is working hard to create an excellent chorus. The Cardinal Chorus is made up of 90 4th grade and 5th grade students. This is the largest Cardinal Chorus Livingston has seen. I am very excited to begin working on a weekly basis with these students to increase talents and desires to sing and perform. Chorus students are held to a very high standard. Students must pass all academic subjects throughout the entire year as well as maintain excellent behavior. We are expecting great things from the Cardinal Chorus this year!

The Cardinal Chorus is only available to 4th and 5th grade students. However the music department develops students at every grade level. This year the 5th grade students will be performing a holiday musical in December. The 1st grade students will be performing a spring musical in March.

During music class, all students, kindergarten through fifth grade, are able to understand music at a deeper level through physical application. Daily, students are moving, singing, and playing instruments.

My goal this year is to further integrate music and musical concepts with academic subject areas. Music is a very important part of the curriculum at Livingston Elementary. The music program continues to provide new and exciting opportunities for students, while supporting them with their academic content in a variety of ways.

I am dedicated to making connections between classroom requirements and innovative learning styles with the focus on musical techniques.

Fourth grade student Annaliese Siders says, "I think music is a way to express yourself and to learn something besides class work."

"Playing the drums is my favorite part of music class", says 2nd grade student Qualatheum Lacky.

Fifth grade student Carl Thomas says, "The reason I love music is because it's fun and when you play the notes your soul just flows with it. It's like somewhere that you can go when you're sad or happy".

Music can connect students with people, places, and ideas that they may never have the privilege to experience otherwise. The natural rhythms and melodies that flow from music have the ability to change students' views and feelings toward life and choices. Allowing students to begin playing instruments and teaching them the correct timing and musical notes can be very rewarding for the student as well as the director. Watching a child's face light up as he or she understands a new concept in music is priceless. I am absolutely thrilled to see what this year holds as we continue increasing knowledge and developing a love for music.