



Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Elizabeth Jagelski

SCHOOL: Berney Elementary School

Position: Music teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 24 years

Q. What is the music class schedule at Berney?

A. We schedule students to come to music during their block time. Block time includes music, P.E. and library. I see students in 4th and 5th three times a week and K-3 students twice a week.

During times when we are preparing for a program, I see them quite a bit as we will practice for up to an hour a day preparing for the concert. The regular class sessions are 30 minutes.

Q. Why is music important to a well rounded education?

A. Music is the one subject area where all students can do well. It doesn't matter what is going on in their lives. The minute they come in the door, they can forget about all their problems and they can connect with each other and themselves through music. They can take these skills out into the world and, hopefully, be confident, wonderful citizens.

Q. What skills do you expect students to learn in your class?

A. We want students to have a love for music and feel proud of themselves. Music helps students develop confidence and self-assurance. I've been at Berney for 10 years so I see growth in students kindergarten to fifth grade.

We start solo, duet and trio singing by the time students get into third or fourth grade. They are confident and want to sing by themselves and share their experiences through song in front of groups. They have no fear.

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MOMENTS & MEMORIES
We do many fun activities. Students are learning many music genres and I let them try different things. It teaches them to take pride in what they are doing and themselves.



COMMENTS FROM ELIZABETH:

I am involved in music seven days a week and I love it! I hold the office of President of Touchet Valley Arts Council and I am also directing Cinderella the community play at Dayton's Liberty Theater.

On Sundays, I sing in the choir at the Presbyterian Church in Waitsburg. I also play the piano for St. Joseph's Catholic Church.



I was born in Los Angeles, CA, but moved to Dayton at a young age. I graduated from WSU. I'm married to Thomas and we have three grown children.