

To the law firm of Holmes, Holmes and Neisent,

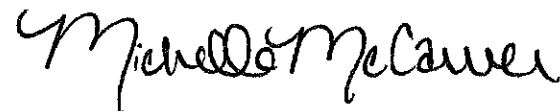
My name is Michelle McCarver and I am a music teacher in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. I had the unique privilege this last fall to help open a new elementary school within Broken Arrow Public Schools. I have been with the district for several years, but this opportunity was a dream to truly build a music program from conception. As a former instrumentalist, I have a natural bend towards getting instruments in students' hands. I am a huge proponent of the philosophy that children learn best by doing. I have found that students learn more music concepts and have more opportunity for creativity through improvisation and composition as they play! I have also witnessed firsthand the joy that students experience when they get instruments in their hands each and every time they come to music. I have spent many summers perfecting my craft to teach using instruments, including attending a summer course in Salzburg, Austria. I now teach other music teachers how to utilize these same resources to help teach music to young kids.

Since this is a brand-new music program, I have been writing grants to help complete our instrument classroom needs. The difficult aspect to completing this list is the expense of these instruments, however I am a firm believer in buying for quality so they never have to be replaced. Rosewood elementary consists of approximately 500 students, and they all come to music on a four day rotation. I typically see about 20-25 students at a time. In order to complete our barred instrument needs, we need four more instruments. One is a bass metallophone (lower sounding barred instrument with metal bars), soprano xylophone (mid range barred instrument with wooden bars), and two glockenspiels (high sounding barred instrument with metal bars). In order to complete our unpitched percussion needs, I need 15 total tubano drums.

Both the barred instruments and the tubano drums serve as a great resource to help teach various music concepts. For instance, barred instruments help teach students melody, melodic contour, rhythm, form, improvisation, and composition. They are set on the diatonic scale and allow us to play both the melody and accompaniment on different voices of the instruments. Drumming is an excellent tool to teach rhythm, notation, phrasing, and ostinatos (short repeated phrases to use for textured accompaniment). I have included a list of all the instruments we still need, but please know that anything (absolutely any amount) is helpful and deeply appreciated!

Thank you so much for your consideration. What a legacy that Mr. Myers is leaving behind for Oklahoma students. This trust given for this purpose beautifully depicts the heart of a great musician.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle McCarver". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle McCarver
Rosewood Music Teacher
Site Teacher of the Year