

# Keys to Creating a Successful Music Program

## Marsha Williams

### K-6 Music Teacher ~ Anchorage School District



Creating Communities of Joy with Music

I am the PreK-5th Grade music teacher at Williwaw Elementary School for the Anchorage School District. My music lessons are infused with a love for music, children's literature, ORFF methods, World Music, Drumming methods and years of experience as a teacher, musician, singer/songwriter and performing artist.

Over the past 30 years, I have taught general music, private music, directed numerous church choirs, served as an Artist in Residence, adjudicator for Alaska's High School Music and Ensemble Festival, served as co-chair for Choral Jubilee and as a mentor to preservice music teachers. In 2004 I had the great honor to serve as a world music outreach performer at Folk Alliance in Nashville, Tennessee. I am currently working to publish a book of songs I have written for children!

#### About Marsha

- Music Teacher
- 2020 Alaska Champion for the Arts In Education
- Singer
- Songwriter
- Musician
- Recording Artist

# Agenda

- Welcome
- Introductions
- Norms - I Notice, I Value, I Wonder
- Classrooms at Williwaw Elementary & Ravenwood Elementary
- Stretch Break - **Me Moves - Calm Connect**
- Curriculum - Musicplayonline, ORFF, First Steps in Music
- ASD Experience as an Elementary Music teacher
- Brain Break - **Calming Breaths**
- **Sing - Say - Dance - Play Instruments - Perform**
- Successful practices during Emergencies and Pandemics
- Questions

Ravenwood Elementary School sits in the beautiful Eagle River Valley, nestled in a forested area surrounded by the magnificent mountain vistas. We offer rigorous and successful academic programs that engage all learners, using the Common Core Standards as our guide. Ravenwood embodies community and thrives from the interconnected support system of Eagle River. Outdoor education, the arts, and the use of technology are all integrated into the academic experiences students are offered to optimize engagement, creativity, and independent learning. Ravenwood is proud of the diversity that the military families bring to our school. Ravenwood Elementary is an outstanding school where all students feel valued.



Link to website here: <https://sites.google.com/asdk12.net/music-ravenwood/home>



Music @ Ravenwood

Home

K-6 Music

Sing/Dance/Play Instruments

Music Teacher

Music Clubs

Performances

# Music @ Ravenwood



## Welcome to Music at Ravenwood Elementary!

Music classes at Ravenwood Elementary are an environment of community, family, creativity, exploration, movement, fun, and MUSIC MAKING! General music classes at Ravenwood inspire and promote, not just an appreciation of the foundational elements of music but also a genuine love and joy for the universal language that is music.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me via phone 907-742-3250 or

email: [williams\\_marsha@asdk12.org](mailto:williams_marsha@asdk12.org)





# Williwaw Elementary



Principal

# **The Music Classroom**

## **Keys to Creating a successful Music family**

**C - Classroom Culture**

**R - Room- set up**

**E - Establish expectations  
rituals and routine**

**A -Accountability**

**T -Teach**

**E - Example**

**S - Structure**



# Classroom Culture



## #1. It begins with you.. **SELF**

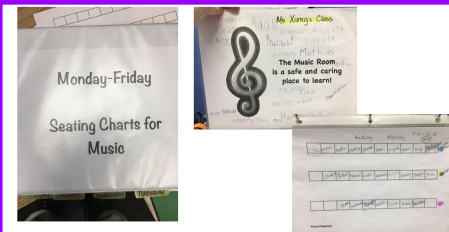
- What are **your beliefs** about creating a safe and caring learning environment?
- **Self Care is an essential** element towards creating a culture that is caring, safe and successful.
- Am I **prepared** and present to meet the needs of my students?
- When something is not working in the classroom I always look at myself first!

# Classroom Culture



## #2. Class

- Guiding system: School Wide Commitment to **Conscious Discipline** and **CHAMPS**
- **Classroom Management:** prepared, expectations are clear.
- We are a MUSIC FAMILY - NORMS  
We agree to be **safe**  
We agree to be **peaceful**  
We agree to **follow, directions the first time**  
It is important, that **we all agree**  
We are a **Music Family**
- At the beginning of the year students sign an agreement and we begin each class singing our agreement song.





**Music Family Agreement song**  
written by Marsha Williams

Teacher

We agree to be safe,

we agree to be peaceful,

We agree to follow,

Directions the first time,

It is important,

That we all agree,

Students Echo

We agree to be safe

We agree to be  
peaceful

We agree to follow

Directions the first time

It is important

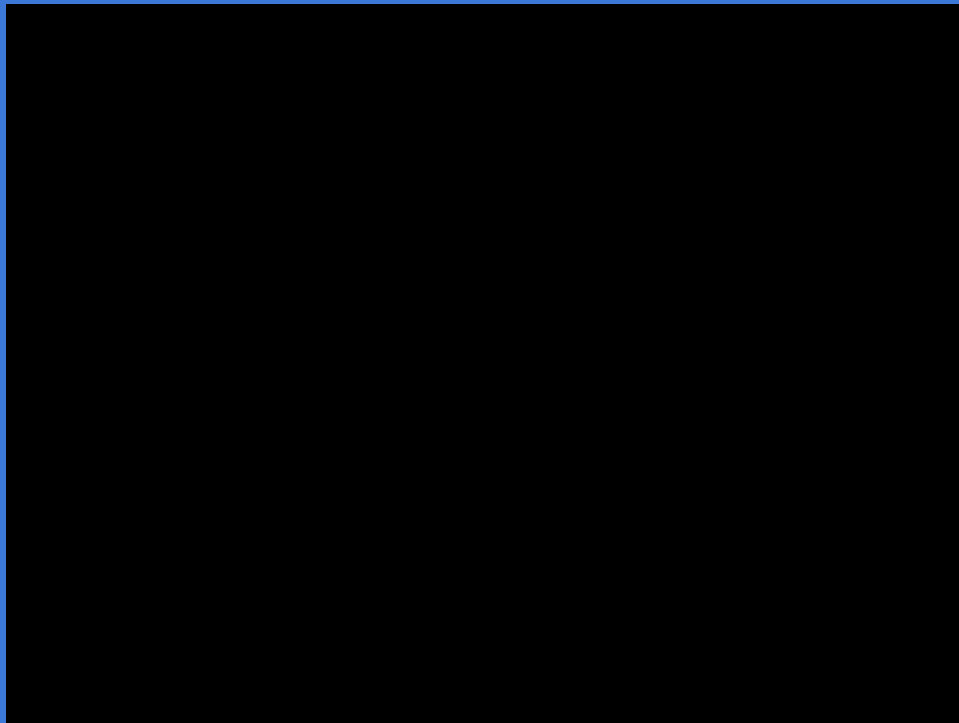
That we all agree



Together: WE ARE A MUSIC FAMILY



## Music Family Agreement Song- Prek-Grade 3



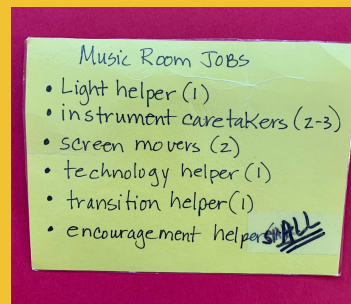
# Classroom Culture



## #2. Class

### Schedule and Expectations

- Visuals for the daily schedule and expectations are posted
- Students rotate jobs weekly



Students, It is my job to keep you safe, it is your job to help keep it that way!



## Ravenwood Elementary 2022-2024 K-6





# Room at Williwaw 2015-2022



# Schedule

**Choir Club  
Mon & Wed  
8:00-8:50**

**Hot Marimba Club**

**Ukulele Club**

**World Music  
Drumming Club**

Music Schedule 2022-2023						
	A	B	C	D	E	F
Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
9:05 -9:35	Johnson Grade 5	Vanhaastart Grade 4/5	Thomas Grade 4	Arnold Grade 4	Johnson Grade 5	
9:40-10:10	Morgan Grade 2	Planning	Pierce Grade 5	Thomas Grade 4	Arnold Grade 4	
10:15-10:45	Bozone Grade 3	Pierce Grade 5 10:10-10:40	Colgrove Grade 3	Vanhaastart Grade 4/5	Planning	
10:50-11:20	Ivory Grade 2	Morgan Grade 2	Ivory Grade 2	PLanning	Colgrove Grade 3	
11:40-12:10	Planning	Planning	Planning	Jordan Grade 6 11:40-12:10	Milwicz Grade 6 11:40-12:10	
12:00-1:00	Lunch  Planning					
1:00-1:30	Mattison Grade 1	Hamilton Grade 1	Lanehart K	Quiroz K	Quiroz K	
1:35-2:05	SNell K	Smith Grade 1	Mattison Grade 1	Hamilton Grade 1	Lanehart K	
2:10-2:40	Smith Grade 1	Bohanski Grade 3	Bohanski Grade 3	SNell K	Bozone Grade 3	
2:45-3:25	WIN	WIN	WIN	WIN	WIN	



# Lesson Plans & Sub Plans

## Grade 2

Come in to class calmly: Sit on assigned spot  
Transition Helper rings the chimes  
Expectations and Grades

Lesson 1: Sing/pat steady beat on knees  
Move

\*\* Sing Agreement

Sing: Solfa pattern

Poison Rhythm

Sing: Boom Boom

Listen and Learn: We Shall Overcome

Lesson: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

2 songs

Kid President

Sing About Martin

CALM CONNECT/GRADES  
Grades/Line Up

### LESSON 2

Students are assigned to  
Instrument part  
Play non pitched  
percussion instruments  
with

Freedom Freedom Let it  
Ring

Sing About Martin  
Dance to Sing About  
Martin

## GRADE 3

Come in to class calmly: Sit on assigned spot

Sing: Agreement Song  
Sing: Solfa Warm up

Listen/Sing: Donkeys Love Carrots  
Sing: Tideo  
Lesson: Dr. Martin Luther King - District  
Kid President  
Sing: Sing About Martin  
We Shall Overcome  
Story of a Song Slides

Listen and Discuss

Calm Connect:  
Grades:  
Line Up

Lesson 2: Instruments  
Instruments on : Singing  
Songs

Instruments: Drums, Sticks,  
Tamborines, woods  
Sing About Martin

Girls call boys answer playing  
rhythm of the words on drums  
Steady beat on woods

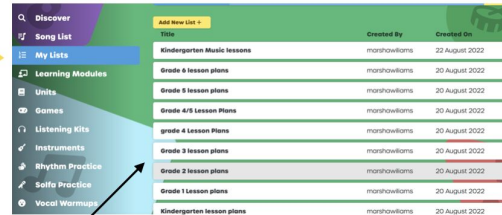
Marsha Williams Music Sub Emergency Plans

Dear Substitute Teacher,

You will find my music lessons located on line at  
[www.musicplayonline.com](http://www.musicplayonline.com)

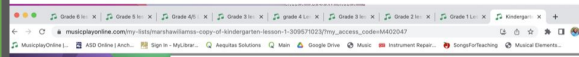
Login: [williams\\_marsha@asdtk12.org](mailto:williams_marsha@asdtk12.org)  
Password: Musicheals1956\*

Planned Lessons for each grade can be found in the my lists section.



Discover	Add New List +	Title	Created By	Created On
My Lists		Kindergarten Music lessons	marshawilliams	20 August 2022
Learning Modules		Grade 6 lesson plans	marshawilliams	20 August 2022
Units		Grade 5 lesson plans	marshawilliams	20 August 2022
Games		Grade 4/5 Lesson Plans	marshawilliams	20 August 2022
Listening Kits		grade 4 lesson plans	marshawilliams	20 August 2022
Instruments		Grade 3 lesson plans	marshawilliams	20 August 2022
Rhythm Practice		Grade 2 lesson plans	marshawilliams	20 August 2022
Solfa Practice		Grade 1 lesson plans	marshawilliams	20 August 2022
Vocal Warmups		Kindergarten lesson plans	marshawilliams	20 August 2022

Click on Each link and open a tab for the full lesson



I open up 7, Music Play tabs and then open the lesson for each class that  
way the lessons are ready to go when students arrive.

# **The Music Classroom**

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**E - Example**

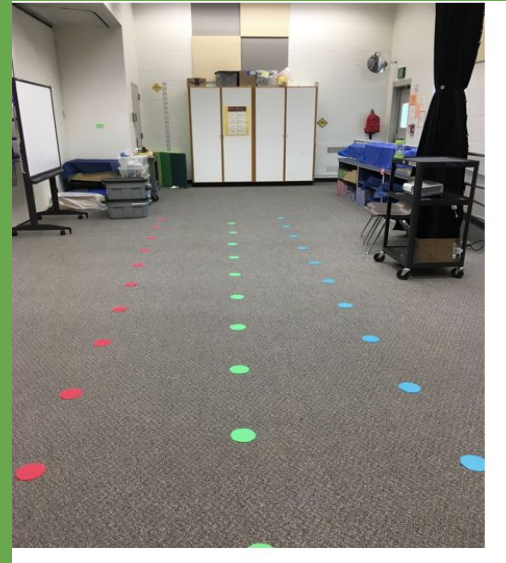
**S - Structure**



## Classroom Setup

To set up for success - things to consider

- Schedule & Lesson Plans
- What you will be teaching?
- Who will you be teaching that day and the needs of your students?
- What materials and instruments will you need?



## Teacher Station





**Ravenwood Elementary 2022 K-6  
1st Grade Class - Solfa Warm up**

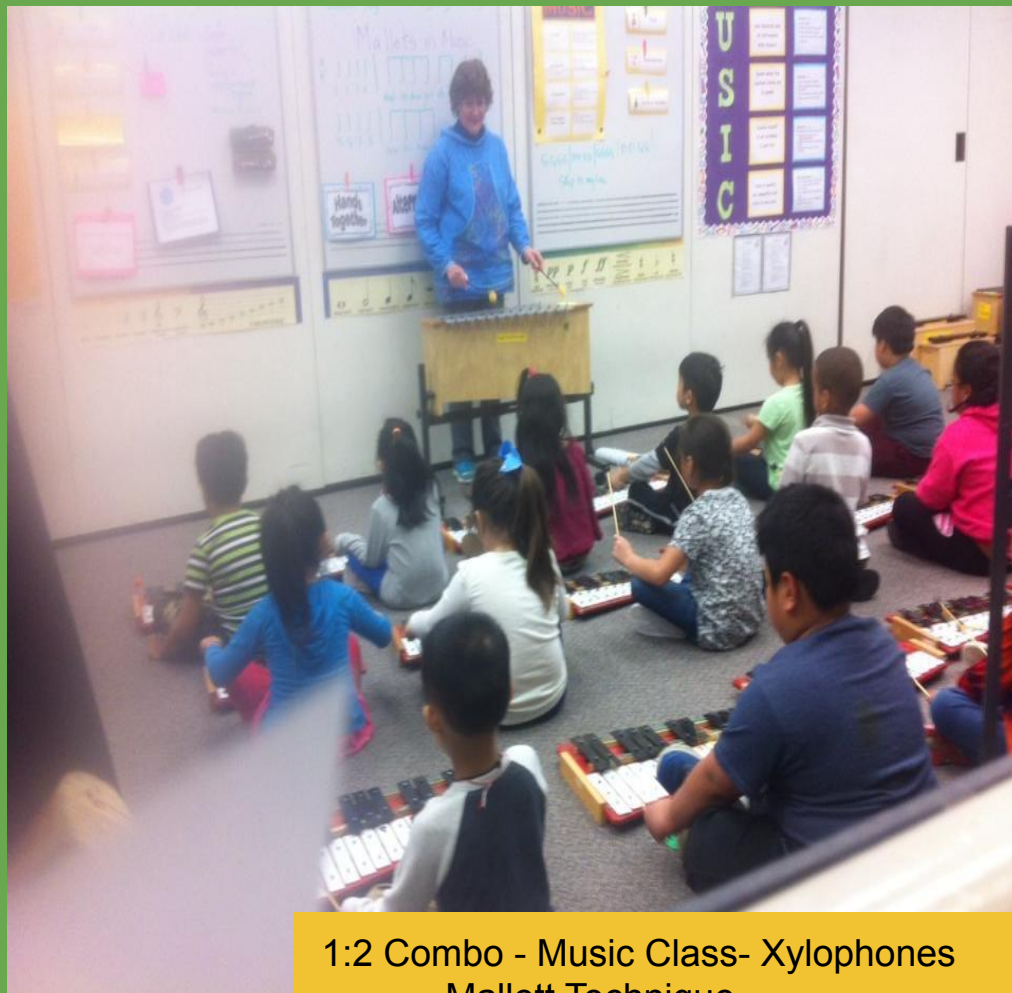






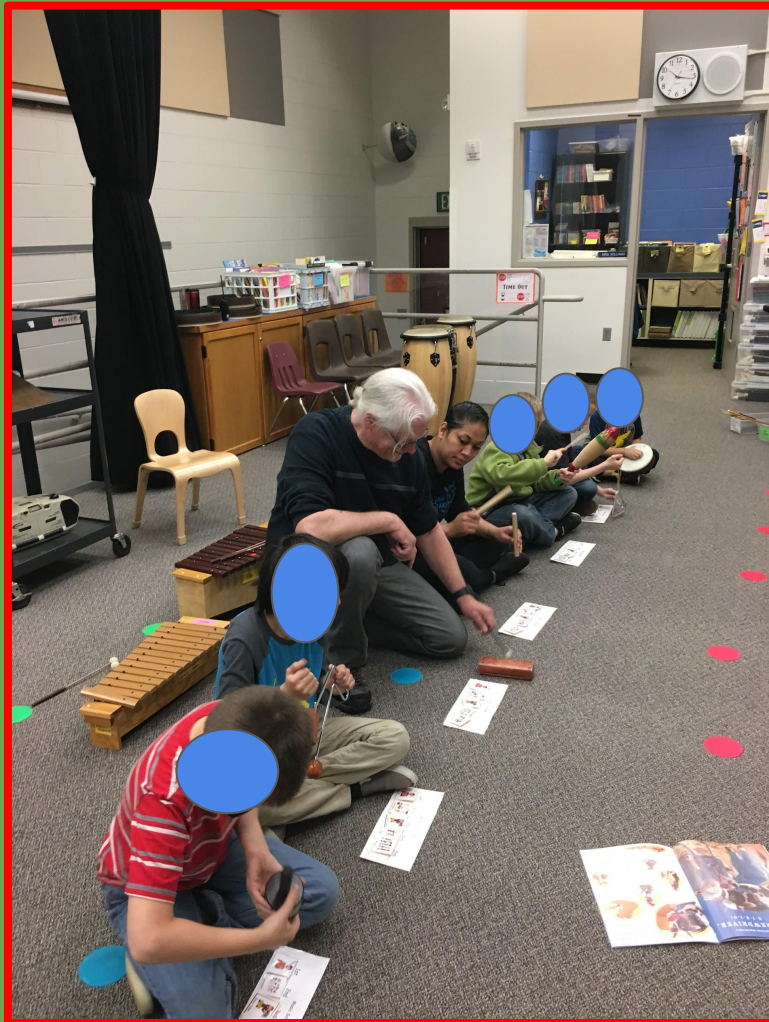


1st Grade -Instruments



1:2 Combo - Music Class- Xylophones  
Mallett Technique





## Intermediate Structured Learning Class

- Each student has visual schedule
- TA's to support students
- Modeling
- Less talk

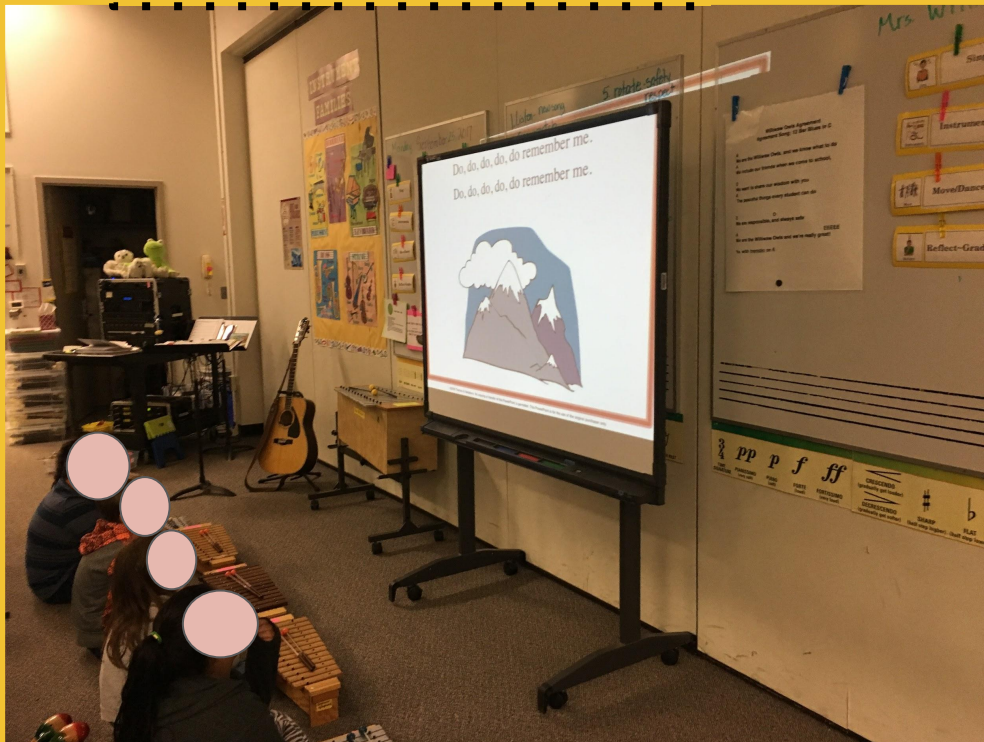


# Grade 3 Music Lesson

Listen

Sing

Play Instruments



## 9. Rocky Mountain

CD1: 10-36

Orff #56

Concept: drm sl. ♩ ♪ ♫

Objective: The students will read a drm sl song.

Interactive: Tone Ladder, staff tool

I can read a drm sl song.

Skills: sing, play, move, create, read/write

Traditional

September

Week 3

Rock - y moun-tain, rock - y moun-tain, rock - y moun-tain high,

When you're on that rock - y moun-tain hang your head and cry.

Do, do, do, do, do re - mem - ber me.

Do, do, do, do, do re - mem - ber me.

## 9. Rocky Mountain

drm sl

gks

AX

hand drums

BX-BM CBB

gks

AX

hand drums

BX-BM CBB

gks

AX

hand drums

BX-BM CBB

Creative Ideas: Create movement to accompany the song. For example: m. 1-4 - join hands and take 8 steps to the right. m. 5-8 take 8 steps to the left. m. 9-12 take 4 steps in and 4 back, repeat

Musicplay: Musicplay 3 first edition #8, Musicplay 3 Revised 2005 #9

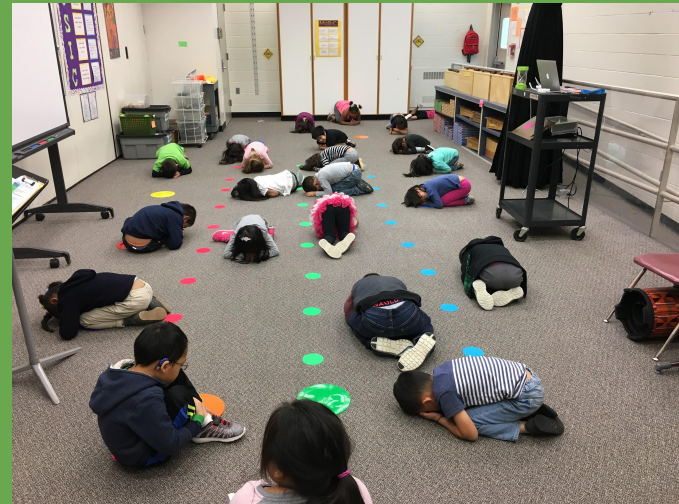
The teacher is permitted to photocopy this activity for student use.





Set Up for Kindergarten and 1st  
Movement

## Sleeping Alaska Animals







What Is CalmConnect?

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## **Establish Routines & Rituals for Success**

- **Keep Routines consistent in order to build a firm foundation for safety, connections and success!**
- **Champs visuals for activities and expectations**
- **Students have jobs to support the class**
- **Seating chart and agreements**
- **Sub Binder prepared and on your desk**
- **Emergency Routines posted and practiced!!**

**Sing**

**Listen/ Say**

**Dance/move**

**Create**

**Play  
Instruments**

**Present  
Perform**

# Establish Routines & Expectations for Safety

## School Wide

### Specials Expectations

When I am in a special classroom, I will...

#### Be Safe

- Wait for instructions at stop sign
- Enter walking, with voice level 0
- Hands and feet to self



#### Be Respectful

- Use kind words
- Participate and be an active listener



#### Be Responsible

- Follow directions first time asked
- Share
- Take care of materials and equipment
- Help and encourage others



#### Be A Peaceful Problem Solver

- Use the Safe Place when needed
- Use Kelso's Choices



## Classroom





Emergency Preparedness: Practice all drills the first two weeks of school then other times as directed by principal throughout the year.



- **Earthquake**
- **Fire Drill**
- **Alice Drill**
- **Stay Put**

# Daily Routine

1. Greet Students in the hall
2. Enter Classroom calm - Sit on assigned spot
3. Sound the Chime
4. Students Choose Jobs
5. Sing Agreement Song
6. Go over champs lesson/visual
7. Teach Lesson
8. Grades - Calm Connect during this
9. Line Up with calm safe bodies.



**Conversation**

**Help**

**Activity/lesson**

**Movement**

**Participation**

**Success**



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## Accountability

- Hold your students accountable - my students reflect and give their grade at the end of class. If I don't agree I ask them to "think again."
- I tell my students, "It's not my job to control you, it's my job to keep you safe and teach you about music."
- Be a reflective Practitioner - after lessons ask yourself, what went well, what didn't go well.
- Hold yourself accountable, set goals, ask for a mentor, ask someone to watch you teach and give feedback.



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# Teach

## 1. Know your curriculum, content, standards and Students!



- **Used for 8 years**
- Students have access  
Login: **m402047**

<https://musicplayonline.com/>

### ORFF Level 2 Cert.

- Uses Children's Literature
- Students are creating and moving
- ORFF Methods
- **Taught 7 years**



Level 1 Cert.  
**taught 6 years**



**First Steps in Music 7 years**  
Sing On Pitch - Song Tales  
Move with the Beat



## Ms. Williams Music Page

**Clever**

Ravenwood Elementary

### Student Music Links



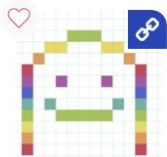
Ravenwood  
Choir

[Edit](#)



Student Login  
code  
m402047

[Edit](#)



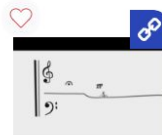
Chrome Music  
Lab

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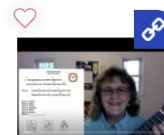
Song maker

[Edit](#)



Line Rider -  
Music

[Edit](#)



Take Time in  
Life/Ukulele

[Edit](#)



Ukulele C  
Chord

[Edit](#)

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## **Example**

**Your students are listening and watching you! How you act, how you respond. The connections you make with your students and staff members will last longer than the music lessons you teach.**

**Are you leading by example, showing and doing what you are expecting of your students? Your example and behavior are powerful!!**

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# Structure

*"A highly structured classroom is powerful when it is safe and caring. It is a place where joy, creativity, meaningful relationships and learning can happen!"*

*Marsha S. Williams*

1. Structured Classroom Set up
2. Structured Lessons
3. Structure for Assessment
4. Structure for success: expectations and community
5. Structure for emergency actions



# A YEAR AT RAVENWOOD



- **Teach music to 450 students, K-6 Elementary- Upper Middle Class**
- **Neighborhood School: Students ride a bus or walk**
- **Prepare primary grades K-2 for individual class family concerts in December**
- **Teach Before School Clubs: Choir, World Music Drumming, Hot Marimba and Ukulele**
- **Prepare Choir for Community and School Performances**
- **Spring Concert: Prepare all clubs for Spring Concert**
- **Prepare 3rd & 4th grade for class concerts in April**
- **Teach WIN classes to groups of students**





# A Year at Williwaw



- Teach music to 385 students, PreK Grade-5 - Highly Diverse population  
80-90 of the students have IEP's ( more than half are ELL)- High Needs School
- 4 Structured Learning Classes ( 10/class) serving Students with Autism
- Williwaw serves a population of HOH (Hard of Hearing) students
- Prepare for two ALL SCHOOL Concerts (December & April)
- Prepare a 5th Grade Class choir to go on Tour in December (50)
- Certificated Launch teacher: Teach 1 Biomedical unit to 5th Grade students
- Prepare 5th Grade Cohort Class for Choral Jubilee



## **ASD Music Teaching Experience**

- **Taught Music at a Title 1 School 8 YEARS -**
- **2 Years Teaching K-6 at Ravenwood, a Neighborhood School in Eagle River**
- **Adjudicator: World Music Category for Alaska State High School Ensemble Festival**
- **ASD Music Advisory Committee - 4 years**
- **Attend a Music Cohort once a month**
- **Mentor new music teachers**
- **Hosted a student teacher during the pandemic**
- **Teacher of the Week for Anchorage School District 2017**
- **2020 Champion for the Arts in Education**
- **Co-Chair for Choral Jubilee 2020**
- **Host student Teachers in the music room**



# Brain Break

## I Can Calm Myself



### I can do Dots.

Use the thumb to press firmly all around the palm of the opposite hand for a count of 10. Take a deep breath before switching hands.



### I can do Squeezies.

Firmly squeeze up the forearms, upper arms, and shoulders. Take a deep breath before switching arms.



### I can do Listening Ears.

Gently massage and unroll the ears, moving from top to bottom.



### I can do Pretzels.

Interlock fingers in front of the chest. Relax shoulders. Cross legs. Place tongue on the roof of the mouth. Hold for one minute. Uncross legs. Take a deep breath.



### I can do Heart To Home.

Place one hand over the heart, the other over the belly, and take three deep breaths. Come to a quiet, focused place in the body.

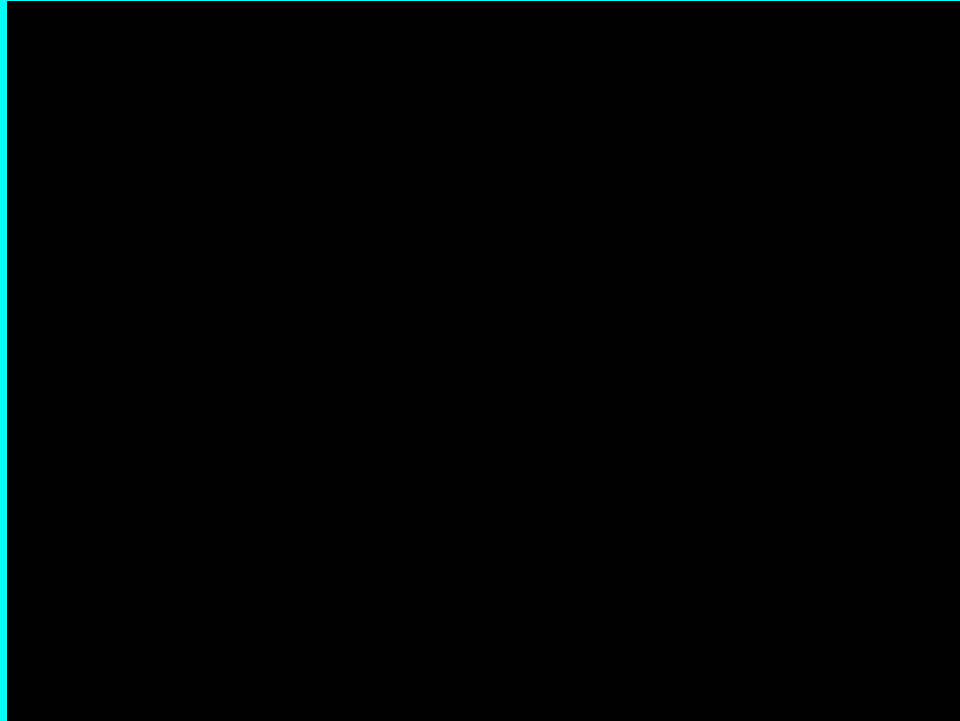


### I can do Calming Taps.

Cross arms across chest. Alternate tapping the right shoulder and then left shoulder with a slow, rhythmic beat.

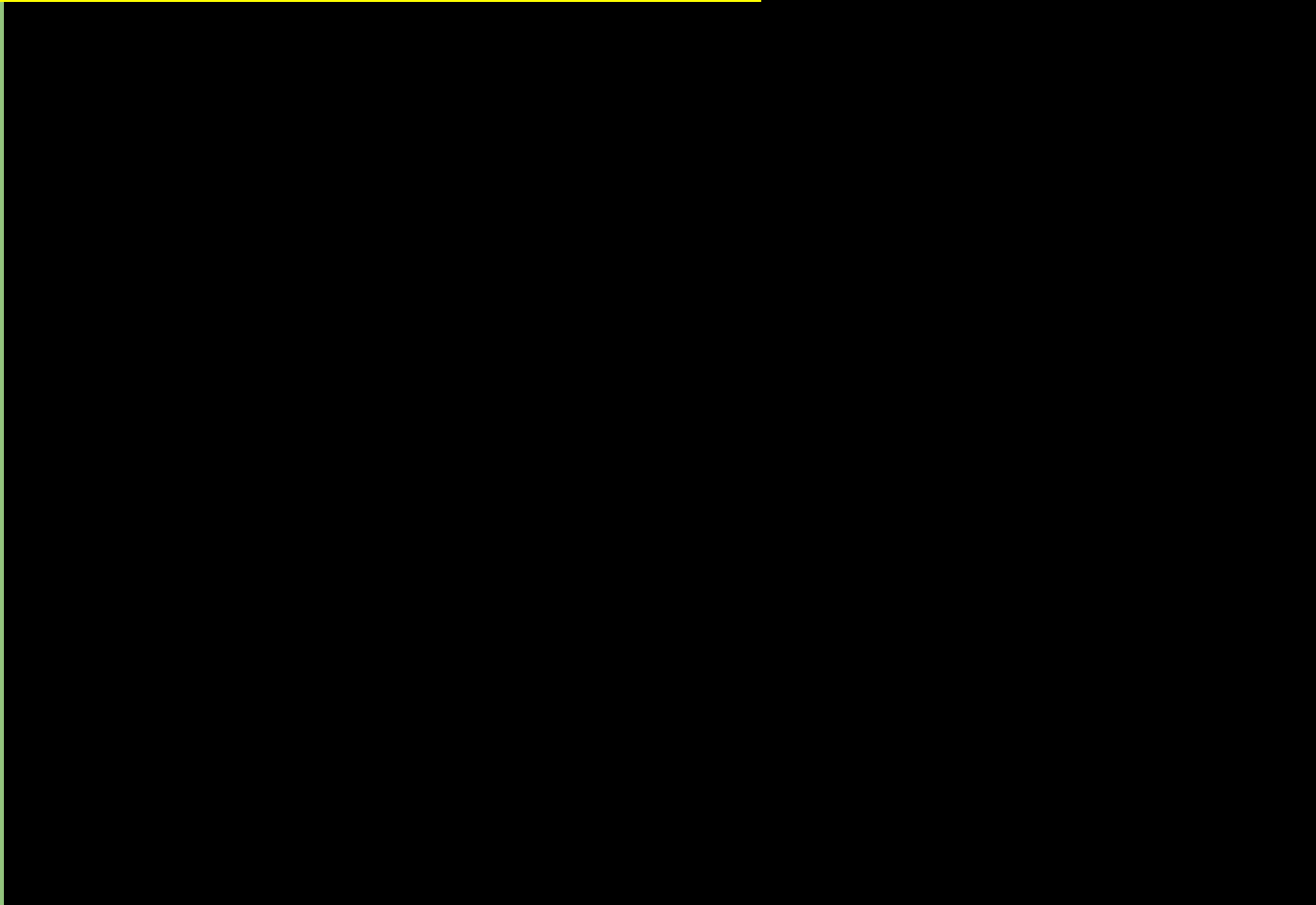


## **Brain Break - Me Moves - Calm Connect**

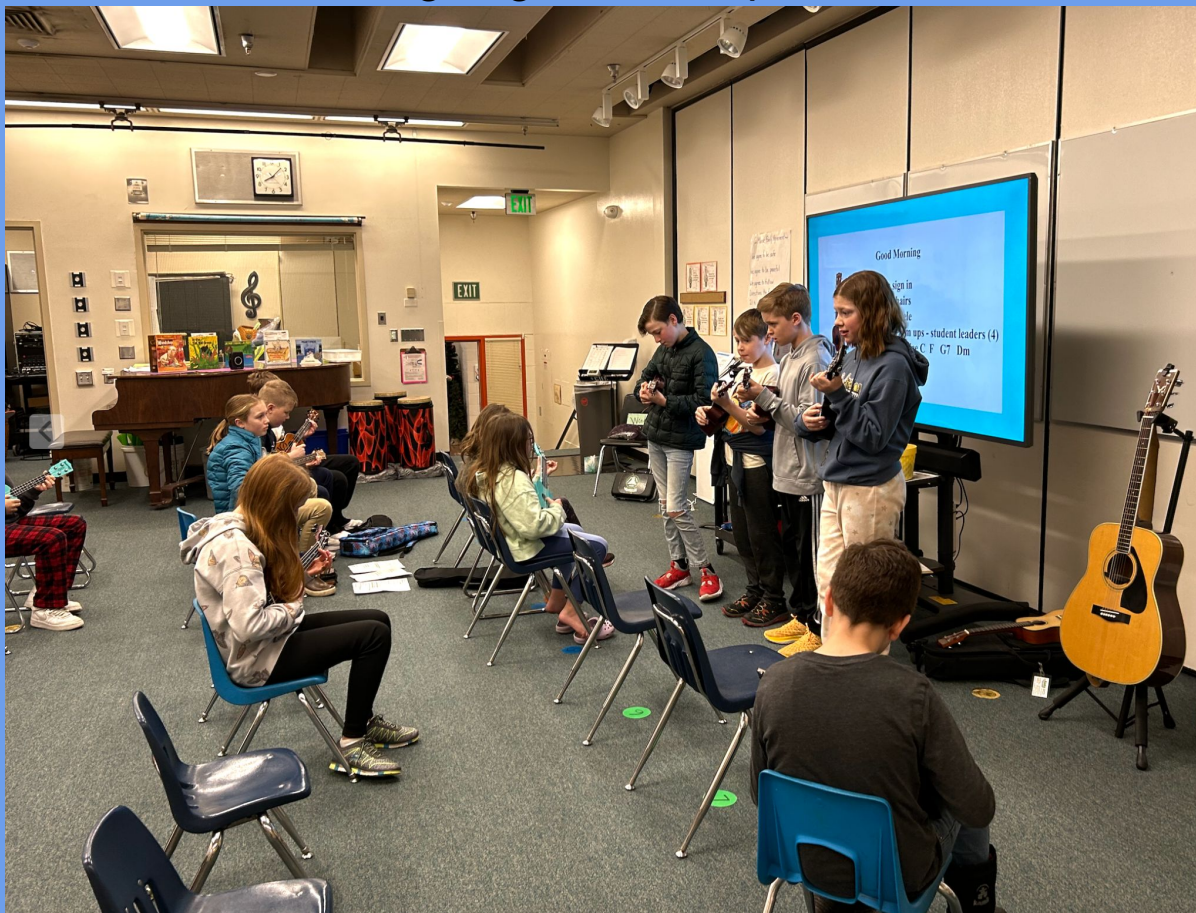




Dance- Los Machetes - Ravenwood  $\frac{4}{5}$  2022 2 minutes



## Students leading finger warm ups for Ukulele Club



**Sing \* Play \* Dance**



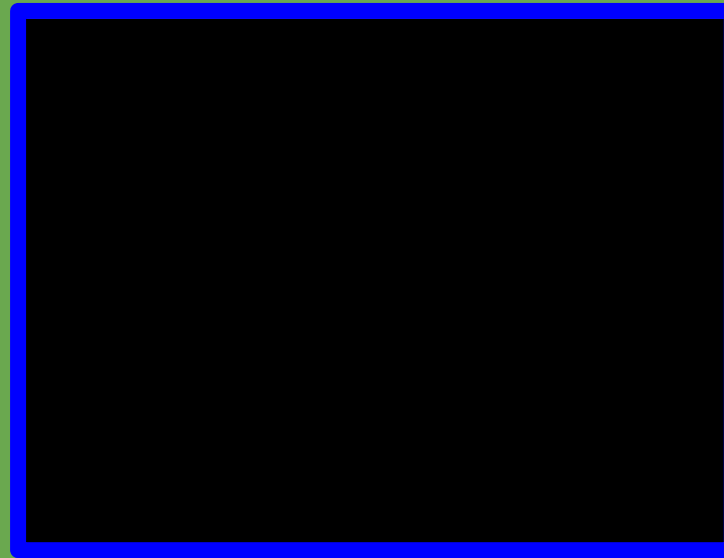
**Dance**



**Listen**



**Sing & Dance**



Concerts- Performance  
Annual December Williawaw Inspiration Tour







**Staying Connected with former music students -  
Encouraging their journey in music!**



**Clark Middle School Orchestra**