

Teacher Feature:

Katrina Stewart, 5-12 Music Instructor

“The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear.” - Buddy, *Elf*.



And that is just what Clearbrook-Gonvick’s band and choir did this December under the direction of second year 5-12 music instructor, Katrina Stewart. The Senior High Band, the Choir, and the Junior High band performed wonderfully at the Winter Program, the Choir represented the school and community perfectly at Digi-Key’s employee holiday party and the fifth and sixth grade band enthusiastically entertained classrooms during afternoon caroling.

Katrina Stewart grew up mostly in Bemidji. She has played piano since four years old and flute since the 6th grade. She can speak German and attended Concordia Language Villages for a couple of summers in high school. Mrs. Stewart went to Concordia College for two years before transferring to Bemidji State University, where she received her teaching degree. Mrs. Stewart lives in the Bemidji Area with her husband, John.



Why did you choose to be a music teacher?

Music has been an enormously important part of my entire life. I remember being on car rides with my family singing along with everything from Journey to Phantom of the Opera. So many of my memories are filled with music.

What did you do before coming to Clearbrook-Gonvick?

I was studying at BSU during the school year and working at Concordia Language Villages in their transportation department during the summer.

What is the biggest challenge of your job?

One challenge is being careful about protecting my hearing and my voice! It’s definitely an occupational hazard when working large groups with lots of noise.



Fifth and Sixth grade band made a stop in Mr. Bettin’s room



If you could have any job in the world - what would it be? Why?

I honestly can't imagine myself doing anything else, but if I could get paid to be a student forever, I'd love to continue studying music theory, music history, and ethnomusicology!

What do you do when you are not at school teaching?

I'm involved at my church with the Sunday school and choir, in the Bemidji Symphony Orchestra, and (during the summer) the Bemidji Community Band.

What are your favorite aspects of the Clearbrook-Gonvick community?

I love working in a small district where everyone knows everybody. I love getting to work with my students, and the community is really supportive.

Any other favorites you would like to share?

Tolkien, Star Wars, Doctor Who, tea, chocolate, and DQ Cookie Dough Blizzards!

And now a word or two about Mrs. Stewart from the students...

Why do you think Mrs. Stewart decided to work at school? "Because it is a great place to start a musical career." "So she could get a job teaching music, the thing she went to school for."

"Because she loves music and her students." "She wanted students to appreciate music as she does." "It was an open job to share her musical skills."



What do you think Mrs. Stewart does when she is not teaching here at school? "Binge watches Dr. Who and does music stuff." "She probably drinks coffee and looks at music." "She watches nerd shows and goes to Target." "Watches Starwars." "Watches TV or something to relax from school."

What do you think Mrs. Stewart was like in High School? "A Starwars nerd with huge glasses." "Very shy and probably pretty smart." "A quiet musical nerd." "Very musically inclined and intelligent with a good work ethic." "Probably the best musician in school."

What is one great thing about Mrs. Stewart? “She is Grade A CRAZY!” “When she talks in different voices.” “She is dedicated to her job and she’s a nerd.” “She is patient with students.” “She loves to show us anything we don’t know about our instruments.”



If Mrs. Stewart did not work here at school, what job do you think she would have? Why? “She would be a crazy cat lady, she seems like the crazy cat lady type.” “She would work at a music store with Jeff Sawyer.” “She would work at a music store half of the day.” “Work at Comic-con for Starwars.” “She would work with little kids.”



If Mrs. Stewart were to be a musical instrument, what instrument would she be? WHY?

“She would be a flute.” “Flute because that is what she used to play.” “A flute because she is soft spoken and sounds pretty when she sings.” “Flute; soft and quiet.” “A flute because she is quiet.”

What is one thing Mrs. Stewart ALWAYS says?

“Me speaks English goodly.” “I’ll wait.” “You might have to take it to Jeff Sawyer.” “Sorry, I lied.” “Shhh...”

