



Michelle Walker



Michelle Walker, affectionately known as the “Mary Poppins of Saraland Schools,” has taught music for nine years in the Saraland School system, where she uses her gift of music to inspire children at Saraland Early Education Center, Saraland Elementary School, and currently at Saraland Middle School. Raised in a home of musicians, Mrs. Walker began studying music early, when as a four-year old she took her first piano lesson from her great grandmother. With music in her DNA, she initiated an after-hours show choir program in her fledgling school system that blossomed into an award-winning show choir comprised of over 50 auditioned elementary-aged students. Currently she conducts an auditioned middle school group, Treble Threat Show Choir, that placed first in their division this year at Capital City Classic.

As a two-time recipient of the Alabama Arts Education Initiative grant in 2019 and 2020 for Saraland Elementary School, she was able to expand the instrument inventory for the elementary school music program by the addition of Orff instruments and receiving certification for Orff Level One in Los Angeles, California. The following year, she was able to expand the sound equipment capabilities for elementary Show Choir rehearsals and performances. Now, as the choir director at Saraland Middle School, she has received two AAEI grants for the creation and expansion of a keyboard lab for middle school students (2020, 2021).

A songstress, accomplished pianist, and certified Orff instructor, Mrs. Walker uses music to connect students with each other and the world around them. She experienced firsthand how music unites people across cultures and language barriers when she participated in international musical mission trips to such countries as Chile, Brazil, Guatemala, and Italy. It was this ongoing desire to spread the love of music beyond her classroom that fueled her desire to create the Mobile International Children’s Choir program. With over 60 students representing ten countries including Tanzania, Burundi and Iraq, this choir is a picture of unity and celebrates the diversity of the Gulf Coast. Her love of music is only surpassed by her love of students, which is why parents, students, and fellow educators alike use one word to describe Mrs. Walker: “Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!”

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