

Jeremy Wade

Music Educator

Dear Mrs. Lowther,

My name is Jeremy Wade, and I am applying for the K-12 World Music Instructor position for Fayette County Public Schools. Over the last fifteen years, I have cultivated a robust track record as a music educator in a variety of contexts, including African, Latin American, and European folk music. I have a particular passion for Irish music and dance, and regularly travel to Ireland to hone my skills through study with some of the most well-respected musicians in the tradition. This immersion has given me a profound sense of respect for the inclusive and encouraging manner in which the music is organically shared within a context of social interaction and community building.

As a part of the Kentucky Irish Music Academy, I have presented Irish music workshops at schools and festivals throughout the region, while cultivating a space for local musicians to learn together on a weekly basis. Along with my work as a music teacher in Clark County and at LCA, I have collaborated with guest artists to provide regular multicultural programming for my own percussion students. These interactions have challenged my students to evaluate how they listen to and learn music, and have served as springboards for us to engage in deeper conversations about how culture is created, and how society and music impact each other.

My work as a LexPhil teaching artist has provided me with opportunities to design and instruct accessible, project-based music curricula that can be easily differentiated to meet the needs of both musicians and non-musicians alike. Over the last semester, students in Crawford Middle School's "Extra Innings" program sampled a variety of instruments, engaged in dance and body-percussion activities, composed music (using text and graphic notation), and recorded their own songs using Soundtrap. Larger projects were broken down into mini-lessons in which new concepts were demonstrated and practiced within a group context. Differentiation and classroom management have also played a key role in my work with the McTeggart Irish Dancers. The personalities and skillsets of 20 children ranging in age from 4-15 can vary widely. Expectations and procedures are regularly reviewed so that the kids always know what they should be doing at any given time, and each child is given material that will challenge their abilities while allowing them to progress through the curriculum at their own rate.

Ultimately, my primary goal is to inspire young people to be lifelong musicians and sensitive listeners. I believe that individuals who actively participate in the process of creating and consuming music are better equipped to communicate and engage with their community; they gain an appreciation and respect for the world beyond their own backyard. Thank you for taking the time to review my application, résumé, and portfolio. I look forward to elaborating upon how my experiences can serve Fayette County Public Schools.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Wade