

# You really should consider a music class at ZLO.

Molly Crocker, Administrator, mathematics, and now music, has nearly as much experience teaching math as music.

I've played an instrument since 5th grade, when I begged my parents for piano lessons. In junior high, I quickly added saxophone, percussion, and guitar. I began singing in high school. In college I majored first on saxophone, but switched instruments and schools after one year. In 1979 I graduated from WWU as a music educator, with most of my experience in the choral department, but having been trained in all instruments. I know where all the notes are on all the instruments. My first 5 years of teaching public school consisted of K-12 music, including general music for grades K-6, and bands and choirs for grades 5-12. Later, as a substitute teacher, I got to work with Ferndale's Joanne Donellan with strings.

In addition to my public school experience I have worked as a church musician. This means arranging music for and playing in small, irregular ensembles, directing choir, leading worship and directing music for vacation Bible schools, children's musicals, etc.

I also spent much time in my own kids' classrooms, doing extra music for them, tying it in to the curriculum as much as possible. Some of those kids have decided to become professional musicians because of my early intervention.

Math is much easier to administrate than a high school music program, and when my kids were small, there were simply not enough hours in a day to be a mom and a middle/high school music teacher. I nearly gave up that career until my son, who plays the trumpet pretty well, began playing in the WCC jazz band. They were looking for musicians to fill in parts and stabilize a brand new class, and I began sitting in on rehearsals spring quarter, 2006. Beginning fall, 2006, I played 1st and 2nd alto sax in the band, an experience that has brought me once again to my senses. I'm a pretty good math instructor, but I'm a much better music teacher! Now that the kids are out of the house, it's time to return to my best subject area and pursue it with all my energy. This is, after all, what I wanted to be when I grew up. (Administering ZLO is icing on the cake.)

We need well-educated musicians, who have a broad background in many types of music, an ear trained to be discriminating and selective. Music (and the arts) are where we, as Christians, can quickly show that God loves variety, and also loves the craftsmanship that shows care and excellence.

## Why should you take a music class?

**The discipline of learning a musical instrument carries over into learning how to complete homework, attention to detail, and working in a group. Music teaches multitasking. Musicians must read music, listen, watch a conductor, time rhythms, and work hands and arms to play, all at once and in front of an audience. This sort of activity grows and connects brain cells and improves cognition in a way that no other enrichment exercise can.**

So I am offering:

- General music for young families, where we'll make kids (and their parents) comfortable with their voices, musical notation, and some simple instruments. Parents will learn how to teach with music.
- Band, from beginning through high school ensemble.
- Choir, for voices age 10 to 100. Young voices need to be handled carefully, and not stretched too far, too fast.
- Guitar, beginning and guitar for worship, where we'll develop the skills necessary to help out with YOUR church's worship ensemble.

