



P R E S E N T S T H E TEACHER OF THE MONTH



James Green Music teacher brings professional expertise to elementary students' lives

Having earned his doctorate in music education, James Green could be

unaware of all they are actually learning. "Much of what is taught in music class carries over to the regular classroom, including history, social studies, even language arts, and of course math." He adds that in fact, "music is just math in graphic form. Learning about music combines all that and puts it into language the students can understand, and they learn in a round-about way."

sharing his love of and appreciation for music with students at the college level. Instead, he chooses to enrich the lives of his students at Sewell Elementary School. His commitment to his students is just one character trait that earned him recognition as this month's Garland ISD Teacher of the Month.

The music education students earn at Sewell Elementary under Dr. Green's guidance is recognized even as they progress through their education. "A lot of our students go on to middle school band, and the band director has said that some of the best prepared band students are from Sewell Elementary," Dr. Green says proudly.

A life-long resident of Garland and a product of Garland schools himself, Dr. Green's future as a teacher was almost guaranteed, as he was raised in a family of teachers. In fact, he says that at one time, his whole family worked for the Garland ISD, where his father, brother and sister-in-law are all still employed.

Dr. Green is also certified in two well-recognized programs of music education methodology. The Kodaly teaching method is primarily used in teaching voice, and the Orff program is based on musical instruments. Because he is certified in both methods, Dr. Green is well prepared to bring music into the lives of students whether they are natural singers or whether they are more comfortable experiencing music through instruments.

"My parents were definitely the inspiration for me to become a teacher," Dr. Green says. "My father was principal at South Garland High School, and I remember going with him to sporting events and helping out around the school."

In addition to his role as music educator, Dr. Green also serves as the school's technology guru, albeit in an unofficial role. "I'm technology-minded, and have presented technology workshops to both the school system and at the state level," he says. He is in charge of the school's website, helps music teachers throughout the district make CDs, and provides tech assistance for the iPods the district provides them.

Music entered Dr. Green's life when his parents bought a church organ and he taught himself to play. He then learned to play piano. He was active in choirs all through school, and decided to study music as well as education when he entered college. He earned his bachelor's degree in music education at East Texas State University, which was later renamed Texas A&M Commerce, where he also received his master's degree and his doctorate. He began teaching in McKinney schools 21 years ago, staying there six years before returning to Garland.

Dr. Green says he originally considered teaching high school music, but after student teaching at that level as well as elementary, he found he liked teaching music to students who hadn't had previous music education.

Teaching music is also a way Dr. Green has found for teaching students a variety of disciplines - even though the students may be

"James is the first and only music teacher Sewell Elementary has known since it opened 14 years ago; but James is much more than a music teacher. He is Sewell's Webmaster, tutor, and the one to go to when help is needed," says Sewell principal Susan Craig. In addition, "The Honor Choir is consistently made first Division at Sandy Lake, due to the hard work and encouragement of Mr. Green. He also provides the PTA with programs for their meetings. His programs are creative, inventive and entertaining," Ms. Craig says.



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