

CHELSEA McKINNON

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Music educator and program builder with 14 years of experience designing engaging, standards-aligned instruction in elementary and international school settings. Known for developing cohesive programs that balance academic rigor, joyful music-making, and community connection, with a growing focus on leadership and program development.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

THE FAY SCHOOL, Houston TX

Elementary Music Specialist, August 2025- Present

- Launched and directed the school's first 3rd-5th grade choir, establishing sustainable ensemble structures grounded in vocal technique and musicianship.
- Designed and implemented vertically aligned K-5 music programming emphasizing musical literacy, ensemble skills, and developmentally appropriate rigor.

CARLUCCI AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF LISBON

Elementary Music Specialist, August 2023- June 2025

- Taught EC-5th music in an international school context, emphasizing creative and foundational musicianship.
- Directed marimba band for 4th & 5th grades, supporting ensemble skills and collaborative musicianship

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS, Springfield OR

Music Specialist & District Liaison, August 2018- June 2023

- Partnered with greater school community for collaborative performance opportunities.
- Oversaw fine arts inventory and procurement across multiple campuses, utilizing Destiny database management.
- Aligned district-wide elementary music curriculum with state and national standards, fostering consistency in instruction.

KEY QUALIFICATIONS

Curriculum Development
Community Collaboration
Teacher Mentorship
Technology Integration

CERTIFICATION

OREGON TEACHING LICENSE

Endorsement: K-12 Music

EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

HENDERSON STATE UNIVERSITY

Minor: Dance and Spanish

Arkadelphia, AR

Cum Laude

MASTER OF MUSIC

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-

COMMERCE

Commerce, TX

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CORVALLIS SCHOOL DISTRICT 509J, Corvallis, OR

Elementary Music Specialist, August 2017 – June 2018

- Taught general music instruction to over 400 students using a blend of pedagogies and instrumental focus.
- Directed after school choir ensemble for fourth and fifth grade.

CARROLLTON-FARMERS BRANCH ISD, Carrollton, TX

Elementary Music Specialist, August 2011 – December 2015

- Facilitated general music instruction to over 600 elementary age students through a combination of Orff Schulwerk and Kodaly pedagogies.
- Supported dual language program and core subjects through multi-subject curricular design.
- Raised parental awareness of arts education through hands-on learning events and community involvement.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

EUGENE CREATIVE CARE, Eugene, OR

Site Director/Multi Site Coordinator, February 2016 – April 2017

- Restructured and supported curriculum development based on established guidelines.
- Coached 8 staff members and encouraged team success through modeling and constructive positive coaching.
- Reinforced behavior management and facilitated communication between teachers, staff, and families.
- Cultivated a classroom environment of discovery and self-guided exploration.

HONORS

DISTRICT SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR
Riverbend Elementary, 2018-2019

VIP TEACHER

Thompson Elementary, 2014-2015

AFFILIATIONS

AMERICAN KODALY EDUCATORS
2020 - 2022

OMEA, DISTRICT 12
Elementary Chair
2019-2022

LEADERSHIP COMMITMENTS

DEI STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM
CAISL, 2023-2025

PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD
Riverbend Elementary, 2018-2022
Thompson Elementary, 2014-2015

TEAM LEADER - SPECIALS
Thompson Elementary, 2012-2015

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL
Thompson Elementary, 2012-2015

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