

# JESSICA CLAIRE

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Dynamic Coordinator of Fine Arts Programs with demonstrated capabilities in leadership, advocacy, organization, and inspiration. Committed to Fine Arts Education as a part of the whole education process of the child.

## SKILLS

- Has the interpersonal skills necessary to be a leader that others will follow.
- Has a vision for Fine Arts at the district, community, and state levels and beyond.
- Has the ability to advocate for the Arts as an essential part of every child's education.
- Has the drive to effectively communicate the message that all Arts programs must possess and strive towards excellence both in product and in process.
- Has above average communication skills and experience speaking to groups and the media.
- Has a working knowledge of computer programs such as Microsoft Word, Publisher, and Excel and is fluent in the software programs: Skyward Finance, Skyward Student, and Skyward Employee.
- Is an accomplished musician and is an avid consumer of all other areas of the Arts.
- Has a working knowledge of sound & lighting processes and equipment useful to Fine Arts.

## WORK HISTORY

06/2015 to Current **Fine Arts Coordinator**

**Alamogordo Public Schools** – Alamogordo, NM

- Successfully led a staff of 23 certified Fine Arts teachers by maintaining program strength through providing professional development opportunities, encouraging cooperation among the Arts disciplines within the district, and expecting excellence in all levels of Fine Arts performances throughout the district, K-12.
- Assisted in the search for new Fine Arts staff through a variety of avenues, including professional Arts organizations, colleagues throughout the state, and through FA departments at universities while working with principals and the district HR department.

- Oversaw and advised Performing Arts directors in regards to out of state performance tour planning, public relations, programming, and outreach into the community through the Arts.

- Designed digital Fine Arts lesson plan templates to address the needs of the FA teachers and meet the standards set forth by the State.

- Was appointed to the Marshall City Commission's Advisory Committee for the renovation of the historic downtown auditorium "Memorial City Hall" built in the 1920s.

06/2000 to 05/2015 **Head Choral Director and Department Head**

**South Carolina Job Board** – Cebu Historical

- Successfully led the Marshall High School Choir Program for fifteen years.
- Led MHS Choirs to excel with 24 Sweepstakes Awards at UIL Competition, 15 All-Staters, and 2 Outstanding State Performers.
- Led seven out-of-state tours with performing choirs to Washington DC (3), San Francisco (2), New York City (Carnegie Hall), St. Louis, and one international Choir Tour to the UK (England and Scotland) with performances at Yorkminster Cathedral (York, England), Shakespeare's Birthplace (Stratford on Avon, England), Oxford University (Oxford, England), Holyrood Palace & Edinburgh Castle (Edinburgh, Scotland). Ninety-seven students, parents, and staff traveled to the UK for this magnificent tour, representing Marshall ISD and making an entire city proud.
- Grew the MHS Choir program from 3 choirs (89 students) in 2000 to 5 choirs (170 students) in 2015.
- MHS Varsity Choral earned the GOLD PRIZE at the San Francisco Choral Festival 2009.
- Represented the school district throughout the community with annual performances at the local art museum, hospital, annual civic celebrations, larger performances with combined area choirs on the ETBU campus and the Marshall Civic Center (such as the 10-year 911 anniversary concert on Sept 11, 2011), the Marshall Regional Arts Council, and the Marshall Symphony League.
- MHS Madrigal Singers (a Renaissance costumed choral ensemble) performed at State functions related to the Daughters of the American Revolution, civic functions related to local organizations such as Rotary Club, representing MISD on a broad and local scope.
- MHS Choirs also supported and participated school organizations and events outside the Fine Arts department such as providing soloists for football, baseball, and basketball games, performing for Veterans Day Assemblies, and entering 2 teams in the FFA Dodgeball Tournament (coming in 3rd in 2014).

06/1994 to 05/2000 **Music Teacher, K-4**

**South Carolina Job Board** – Greenwood

- Taught K-4 music classes daily, was responsible for providing programs for PTA, Christmas, and other holiday celebrations.
- Partnered with the PE teacher to lead the efforts for many school-wide initiatives such as Black History and Cinco de Mayo celebrations, canned food drives, Coats for Kids, and other similar activities.
- Assisted the principal with making the master schedule each August.
- Began a school choir that met weekly and traveled locally, representing the school and performing for civic groups and local celebrations.

11/1987 to 05/1994 **Music & Art Teacher**

**South Carolina Job Board** – Bennettsville, SC

- Taught music and art for grades 1-6, managed the school's Student Council, Yearbook, and fundraisers.
- Provided programs for Friends of Trinity (PTA), chapel, Grandparent's Day, and Christmas.

06/1981 to 05/1987 **Music Teacher**

**Pulaski County Special School District** – City, STATE

- Southside Junior High Choir (1981-1984)
- Pinewood Elementary (1984-1987)
- Murrell Taylor Elementary and Arnold Drive Elementary also shared with Pinewood Elementary over the years at Jacksonville.

06/1980 to 05/1981 **Music Teacher**

**Azle Independent School District** – City, STATE

- Taught music Pre-K-4. (Provided the usual events and programs.)

07/1978 to 05/1980 **Music Teacher**

**Ft. Worth Independent School District** – City

- Taught music K and 5-6. Inner city school presented many opportunities for this first/second year teacher to learn much about diversity, poverty, school violence, and neighborhood blight.
- Attempted to provide music programs for an almost non-existent PTA, and presented the first Christmas program at the school in more than a decade.

## EDUCATION

1998

**Master of Music, Kodaly Pedagogy: Music Education in the field of Kodaly Specialization**

**Sam Houston State University** - Huntsville, Texas

1978

**Bachelor of Music Education: Piano Major, Voice Minor**

**Ouachita Baptist University** - Arkadelphia, Arkansas

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Recipient of the "Above and Beyond" Award by the Marshall ISD School Board, 2013
- UIL Sponsor Excellence Award presented by the University Interscholastic League, 2008
- Honorary Lifetime Membership in Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers for "Distinguished Service to Children and Youth", 2008
- Marshall Independent School District Teacher of the Year, 1997

## AFFILIATIONS

- Texas Music Administrators Conference

- Texas Music Educators Association

## CERTIFICATIONS

- Texas Teaching Certificate in Music K-12, lifetime status
- Endorsement by the Organization of American Kodaly Educators in all-level Kodaly Instruction.
- Arkansas Teaching Certificate in Music K-12, lifetime status