



**Albuquerque Public Schools
Fine Arts Program**

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Dear Adobe Acres Elementary Parents and Community:

My name is Blake Himm, I am returning as your child’s music teacher at Adobe Acres!

I am a graduate of Berklee College of Music in Boston. I specialize in the music of Africa, Japan, Brazil, the Middle East and Australia. I am a professional percussionist as well as an accomplished drum maker.

As a teacher, my goal is to create a musical child, not a child musician. By this, I mean that a child musician is one who has taken on the task of studying a particular instrument. They choose an instrument and practice this instrument. A musical child on the other hand, is one who has learned to open themselves to the universal experience of music. He or she learns to sing musically and on pitch, listens to instrumental music critically, and finds his or her own authentic response to music.

By learning to listen to music, feel its emotional center, respond to tempo changes and compare instrumentation, the musical child is using both their right and left-brain hemispheres. The musical child will be able to connect intuitive thought with concrete information.

When children start singing to themselves, when they start rewriting lyrics because they understand the rhythmic patterns, when they start to tap, sway or dance to a piece of music they are demonstrating being musical. When they are compelled to listen to a piece of music to express their feelings, or when they say “this piece of music reminds me of...” they are demonstrating being musical.

It is a joy for me to be a music specialist and I look forward to sharing music and musical experiences with your children. Please support your child’s musical education this year by asking them to share what they did in music class. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me through the office at Adobe Acres Elementary or at himm@aps.edu.

Thank you,

Blake Himm
APS Fine Arts Music Teacher