

August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Dexter Community Schools

Creekside Intermediate School

Dear HR Department,

Please accept this letter as my notice of resignation of my role as resource room teacher at Creekside Intermediate School effective August 14<sup>th</sup>,2023.

This was very hard decision to make, but after much consideration, I feel like this opportunity is what is best for me at this time. I want to say thank you to everyone who has helped me throughout my experience in Dexter including my amazing principal, Tammy Reich.

Please let me know what is needed from me before the end of my employment.

Thank you,

Morgan Griffis



# DEXTER EARLY ELEMENTARY COMPLEX

Brooke Stidham, Principal  
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To: Dexter Board of Education

From: Brooke Stidham

Subject: New Teacher Recommendations for Dexter Early Elementary

Date: August 1, 2023

As a result of our most recent interview process, we would like to recommend the hiring of Ms. Sydney Gembka for a part-time Music Teacher at the Dexter Early Elementary Complex. Sydney is a 2022 graduate of the University of Michigan School of Music and is passionate about early elementary music. Ms. Gembka has already taught a variety of grades, instruments and musical techniques from her experiences at Ann Arbor Public Schools, Toledo Public Schools and the Hudson Music Center in Dexter. As a recent graduate, Sydney brings with her new knowledge and understanding of inquiry based learning, culturally responsive teaching practices, and ways to differentiate learning for all students.

We are confident that Ms. Gembka would be a great addition to our Dexter Early Elementary Staff!

Thank you,  
Brooke Stidham,  
Principal, Dexter Early Elementary

Interview Committee: Molly Hampsey, Mary Leach, Jennifer Porcaro, Ashley Dorr and Brooke Stidham

# Sydney Gembka

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## Certifications

**Ohio 4-Year Resident Educator License:** Multi-Age (P-12) Music | valid through June 2026

**Michigan Standard Teaching Certification:** K-12 Music Education (JQ) | valid through June 2027

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## Education

**University of Michigan** - Bachelor of Music in Music Education with Highest Honors 2022

**University of Michigan** - Bachelor of Music in Percussion Performance with Highest Honors 2022

- GPA: 3.93
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## Teaching Experience

### **K-8 General Music Teacher | Toledo Public Schools | Aug 2022- May 2023**

- Taught students in grades k-8 two lessons per week that align with state and district music standards
- Adapted lessons to meet the needs of students with disabilities and individualized education plans

### **Music Teacher & Administrative Support | Hudson Music Center | July 2020- Aug 2022**

- Taught private percussion and piano lessons to elementary and middle school students
- Coordinated lesson schedules and concerts for over 80 students and 12 teachers via Zoom, Canva, Adobe Suite, My Music Staff, Square Space, and Google Suite

### **Long-term Elementary Vocal & Instrumental Music Substitute | Ann Arbor Public Schools | May 2022- June 2022**

- Taught students in grades k-6 musical concepts, including solfege, rhythms, and songs via zoom instruction
- Graded assignments via rubrics to assess student growth and understanding of concepts

### **Student Teaching | Slauson Middle School, Bach Elementary, Lakewood Elementary | Jan 2022- Apr 2022**

#### 5th & 6th grade band

- Instructed 3 sections of 5th-grade winds, brass, and percussion students per week
- Assessed students' progress of songs via individual performances
- Helped students find the right instrument for them by observing their musical strengths

#### 5th-8th grade orchestra

- Created bowings in all parts to reflect students' skill level while keeping the musical integrity of the pieces
- Conducted and prepared two songs per grade level for their spring concert

#### Young 5s-5th grade general/vocal music

- Taught 14 unique music and humanities lessons to PreK through 5th-grade students that align with district curriculum standards
- Assessed students' abilities to sing on pitch with correct rhythms through musical games
- Developed and delivered a boomwhacker unit to grade 5 to introduce them to chord building

### **Percussion & Lead Strings Teacher | Ypsilanti Youth Orchestra | Sept 2018-Dec 2021**

- Led group percussion and strings classes of 6-30 students to prepare them for semesterly concerts
- Developed "Drum Like a Girl" class to inspire female students to play percussion

### **Strings Teaching Assistant | Brightmoore Arts Camp | July 2021-Aug 2021**

- Taught virtual group and private lessons to prepare students with varying abilities and skill levels for the end-of-camp showcase

### **Music Teacher | Crescendo Detroit Pathways Program | Sept 2019-Mar 2021**

- Taught small-group percussion lessons and World Music classes virtually and in-person

### **Percussion Staff | Brush High School Band Camp | July 2019**

- Led drumline sectionals and assisted with music memorization and drill learning

# Sydney Gembka

## **Percussion Teacher | Private Studio | Sept 2016-June 2018**

- Instructed weekly in-person one-on-one lessons to middle school and elementary students
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## **Relevant Experience**

### **Camp Counselor | University of Michigan MPulse Summer Performing Arts Institutes | June 2023- present**

- Supervise and ensure the safety of middle school and high school musicians during class transitions and downtime
- Facilitate and organize evening activities to engage students in recreation

### **Percussion Manager | University of Michigan Youth Ensembles | Sept 2019-Mar 2020, Jan 2022- Mar 2022**

- Coached sectionals for the percussion section to provide historical context and high-level training to high school musicians
- Performed as an extra percussionist in semesterly concerts
- Organized equipment transportation logistics between performance venues

### **Percussion Section Leader | University of Michigan Large Ensembles | Jan-Dec 2020**

- Organized instrument packs ensure safe transportation between concert venues
- Communicated instrument needs and call times between performers, ensemble managers, and conductors

### **“Yes, And” Co-Creator | University of Michigan Arts Engine Sonic Scenographies | June- Sept 2020**

- Created a new type of virtual performance experience by combining spaces, sounds, music, and audience interaction into a recorded, online performance, streamed via Twitch

### **Communications Rep | NAFME Collegiate Chapter: University of Michigan | Sept 2019-May 2020**

- Publicized NAFME events to students resulting in increased attendance

### **Floater Teacher | Le Chaperon Rouge | May 2019-Aug 2019**

- Watched over children ages 6 months to 5 years, while they were on break
- Communicated with parents about their children’s well-being via behavior and injury reports, phone calls, and Dojo

### **Junior Girls Counselor | Interlochen Arts Camp | June 2018-Aug 2018**

- Supported and supervised campers in grades 3-7 in their day-to-day activities

### **Geauga West Library Book Buddies | 2012-2017**

- Tutored first through third-grade students who needed extra reading help in a one-on-one setting
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## **Performance Experience**

### **University of Toledo Orchestra | Winter 2023**

### **University of Michigan Ensembles | Fall 2018- Summer 2022**

- Concert Band
- Maize Band (bassoon)
- Percussion Ensemble
- Philharmonia Orchestra
- Samba Band “Vencedores”
- Steel Pan Ensemble
- Symphony Band
- Symphony Orchestra

### **Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra | Fall 2014- Spring 2018**

### **Contemporary Youth Orchestra | Fall 2016- Spring 2018**

### **West Geauga High School Ensembles | Fall 2014- Spring 2018**

- Marching Band

# Sydney Gembka



- Jazz Band
- Symphonic Band

**Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony | Fall 2013- Spring 2014, Fall 2015- Spring 2016**



# DEXTER HIGH SCHOOL

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nowakm@dexterschools.org

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To: Dexter Board of Education  
From: Melanie Nowak  
Subject: High School Family Consumer Science Teacher Recommendation  
Date: July 25, 2023

As a result of our most recent interview process, we would like to recommend Ms. Maria Sagante for our Dexter High School Family Consumer Science Teacher position. Ms. Sagante, although new to the teaching profession, will be a great asset to Dexter High School. Maria successfully completed her student teaching at Rockford High School last fall. During her time there, she implemented IEPs and 504s, reached out to community members for classroom connections and speaking engagements, and exhibited competent classroom management skills. After her student teaching program, Maria was hired for a long term substitute position with Rochester High School.

Maria is excited to join the Dexter Community and support the students and families of Dexter High School.

Interview committee: Krickett Chamberlain, Roger Sprau, and Melanie Nowak

# MARIA E. SAGANTE

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Seeking a position as a Family and Consumer Science education teacher at Dexter High School. Committed to improving and growing the FCS program while ensuring instructions and lessons are engaging and adapted to meet the needs of each student. Skilled in providing a positive, engaging classroom environment of inclusiveness through building relationships. Excited to participate in extracurricular activities.

## EDUCATION

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**Bachelor of Science in Education** December 2022  
Western Michigan University GPA: 3.86  
Major: Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher Education Minor: Secondary English Education  
**Master of Arts** Expected Graduation: 2024  
Western Michigan University Kalamazoo, MI  
Workforce Education, Development, and Leadership 12 Credits Completed

## CERTIFICATIONS

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MI Standard Teaching Certificate: Family and Consumer Sciences (KH) June 2023  
CTE: Family and Consumer Sciences (19.000) Vocational Endorsement December 2022  
HeartSaver First Aid, CPR, AED Certification January 2022  
ServSafe Food Handler Certification September 2022

## EXPERIENCE

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**Rochester High School** Rochester, MI  
*Long-Term FCS Substitute* February-June 2023  
Developed and implemented relevant and beneficial classroom expectations, lessons, assignments, and activities for various FCS classes.

**Rockford High School** Rockford, MI  
*Intern Teacher & Long-Term FCS Substitute* August-December 2022  
Provided core instruction and developed and implemented daily lessons. Modified assignments, assessments, and instruction in order to accommodate individual students. Assessed students through summative and formative assessments. Communicated, accommodated, and documented details pertaining to 504s and IEPs. Implemented management strategies including classroom norms/expectations, phone cubbies, and seating charts. Reached out to community members regarding guest speaking in class. Attended monthly professional development meetings.

**Edustaff** MI Public Schools  
*Substitute Teacher* February 2022-Present  
Provided instruction to and managed students within the classroom.

**Linden Grove Middle School** Kalamazoo, MI  
*Pre-Intern Teacher* September-December 2021  
Observed instructional and classroom management strategies. Guided and engaged students through varying activities and assignments.

**Child Care** Oakland County, MI  
*Full-Time Nanny* June 2015-Present  
Responsible for the safety, establishment of a daily routine, and entertainment of multiple children, ranging from three months to twelve years old.

**Autism Student Center** Western Michigan University  
*Student Mentor* August-December 2019  
Mentored five WMU students. Held individual weekly meetings involving educational, emotional, and social support. Participated in weekly staff meetings and game nights.

## AWARDS/ORGANIZATIONS

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Magna Cume Laude 2022  
John L. and Jane K Feirer Scholarship 2022  
Beilfuss Scholarship 2021-2022  
Dean's List 2018-2022  
Alpha Phi Fraternity - Recruitment Day Chair, Slating Committee Member 2018-2022  
Panhellenic Executive Board - VP of Risk Management 2021-2022  
Lee Honors College 2018-2021  
Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America - State Leadership Conference Judge 2020