



OUR Promise FEATURES

Integrity - Perseverance - Inclusivity - Innovation - Excellence



Jennifer Sanchez: A Passion for Music & Teaching

In this week's Promise Feature, we met up with PHS Music Teacher Jennifer Sanchez, who gives us some insight into the variety of music classes she teaches along with what her students are learning and the goals she has for them.



11 Years of Teaching Music To our Students

For 11 years, Jennifer Sanchez has been working with student musicians here in our District. First, as a hybrid Elementary/High School Strings teacher, and now a full-time music teacher at Patterson High School. Sanchez, a trained Cellist and Vocalist, has cultivated a rich and diverse musical landscape for her students ranging from Strings, Musical Theater, Choir, and even Music Technology.

“For me, the biggest thing is to make sure that [our students] are growing as musicians,” said Sanchez. “If they want to take their music somewhere after high school, I want them to have those skills and abilities. I want to make sure they have that career readiness.”

Most recently, Sanchez has been overseeing the PHS Musical Theater Program, directing plays and arranging music for past performances like “The Polar Experience,” and the upcoming performance of “Winnie the Pooh Kids.”



“I get to take kids on a trip around the world without ever leaving the classroom.”

In her Music Technology class, Sanchez teaches students how to compose original music using computer software. Currently, students are working on composing a new original song for PHS to use during tardy sweeps.

Eventually, Sanchez hopes that the Music Technology class will expand to the point where it can be brought in as a CTE pathway.

“That class can really turn into sound engineering, and sound design. That’s my hope.”

Students in Sanchez’s music classes are exposed to a variety of compositions from around the world, such as Three Patriotic Treasures, Viva La Musica, and Jasmine Flower.

“I get to take kids on a trip around the world without ever leaving the classroom. They get to study world cultures and they’re really learning good morals and getting an appreciation for that while singing and enjoying themselves.”

Additionally, Sanchez has enjoyed cultivating a classroom environment where students can just be themselves and not be afraid of asking questions.

“The kids are great. They want to be here. They really enjoy participating and asking questions and [having] the freedom to be themselves in my classroom because they feel safe. Creating that safe environment makes me feel like I’m providing something that they’re really looking forward to.”

Staff and community members can see Sanchez and her students in action March 7-8 and 14-15 as the Musical Theater Program performs Winnie the Pooh Kids at the Francis J. Bettencourt Performing Arts Center. For more information and tickets please visit: <https://bit.ly/winnietheplay25>.