Hello,

I’m Angie Weber, the Music Education Coordinator, and voice and piano teacher, here at the Elmhurst Park District. On most nights of the week you can find me in the lobby of the Wagner Community Center picking up a student for lessons. One of my tasks is to put together the newsletter for the Music Department every month. Originally, I was going compile pictures of students, possibly a puzzle or word search like I typically do every month, but this isn’t a typical month. I wish I had answers for all the questions about lessons, classes and recitals. I don’t, but I will let you know as soon as I do.

I am sure you’ve gotten updates from everyone, from restaurants to stores, telling you how and what they are doing to make everything safe. I’m not going to do that. Instead, I’m going to try to let you know that all of the teachers here miss working with your children.

For me, the joy of teaching music can easily be summed up by an article I ran across a few years ago in the Readers Digest. You can access the story here:

https://www.rd.com/true-stories/inspiring/the-night-i-met-einstein/

I am very much a “hands-on” person. I love working with my hands. If your child takes lessons from me, then you probably know, in addition to playing the piano, guitar, mandolin and ukulele, I also knit and sew, and make all my own clothes. My hands are rarely still for very long. There is something about the act of creating something out of nothing that fills my soul. For me making music is the highest level of creation. A musician literally turns what was nothing into something beautiful simply by striking a key, plucking a string, or opening up their mouths to sing. I love being able to spend time with your children, showing them how to use their hands and voices to do something truly amazing, and seeing all those “light-bulb moments.” To hear music being made by someone for the very first time, is the greatest gift. I hope we will all be able to do it again very soon. Together, we can “engage in the greatest activity of which man is capable, and open up yet another fragment of the frontier of beauty.” – Albert Einstein

Sincerely,

Angie Weber
Music Education Coordinator
Elmhurst Park District
This is my current voice class. Anthony, Carmela, Adam, Anabella and Simon have been so much fun to work with over the past two months. In class everyone is learning the basics of singing including proper posture and breathing. We also work on scales and chords. The ukuleles provide a method for the singers to incorporate learning rhythm, playing chords and note reading.

The class is working on *De Colores*, a Mexican Folk Song, which everyone is singing in English and Spanish, and the song *Lava*, from the Pixar short movie *Lava*. A new voice class starts each semester and over the summer. New and previous students all learn together. Ukuleles are available to use in class. A new class is scheduled to start on Monday, June 1 and will run through August 8.

Musicians have increased coordination skills.

Music is like sports in that it can improve hand eye coordination.

Music and sports both help children develop their small motor skills when they are playing.

The summer private lesson session runs from June 1 – August 8. Elmhurst Park District offers private lessons in piano, voice, guitar, drums, violin and viola. To request and schedule a lesson day and time, please fill out, sign and return the Music Private Lesson Request Form. Forms are available at the Wagner Center Registration Desk, or via download at [http://www.epd.org/programs/music](http://www.epd.org/programs/music).

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