

New choir director prepares to hit the high notes

By Rebecca Herren
Seaside Signal

Kimber Parker is beginning her first year as the choir director at Seaside High School and Broadway Middle School, and says she is thrilled to be in this community and part of this team of educators.

Her goals for choir are simple: Continue their strong tradition of musical excellence and grow in their understanding of sight-reading and vocal technique, as well as reflect on the affective aspects of music. In addition, plans include three concerts, at least two competitive festivals, a District Honor Choir and guest clinicians. The concerts will be held on Nov. 16, March 7 and May 30.

Concerts for Broadway Middle School will be held Nov. 20, March 6 and May 30.

There will be a winter musical in February and March, directed by English teacher LeeAnn Schmelzenbach. And though the musical has been chosen, the title is being kept under wraps.

The high school has 39 singers in its Chamber Choir and is open to students from all four-grade levels. Auditions and selections for Jazz Choir will be held during September. In addition to the choirs,

Parker is teaching Garage Band at the high school. This, she said, is a popular music class where students collaborate in bands to create, perform and record music. "I'm excited to watch these musicians exercise their creativity as the term continues."

This year's music represents various cultures, eras, languages and themes. "My aim is to choose pieces that are rich in teachable concepts and allow students to transfer those concepts to other pieces later on. The pieces we sing are engaging, challenging and really fun," Parker said. "Our choir is excited and prepared to continue making excellent choral music for our families, our school and our community to enjoy."

Parker looks forward to watching the seniors take on leadership roles noting there are excellent musicians in all grades. "We have natural and talented leaders here who sing with both skill and passion." She added that she hopes her students become independent and collaborative musicians who develop a lifelong love for music making.

Parker did her undergraduate and graduate work at Oregon State University. She taught private voice lessons and directed more than a dozen choirs, including collegiate level, 4A, 5A, middle school and community choirs.



REBECCA HERREN/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Kimber Parker, choir director at Seaside High School and Broadway Middle School, works on vocal technique with choir students at the high school.

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