Welcome to Vocal Village!!

Hello! My name is Whitney Mayo, and I am thrilled to work with you this summer in Vocal Village! In this class, we will sing, play, move, and create with the goal of building comfort with singing and continuing to develop overall musicianship skills, such as audiation, listening, rhythm, and improvising with musical ideas. I cannot wait to get started!

A bit about me: I am currently a student at Michigan State University working toward a PhD in Music Education. I have a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor (2013) and a Master of Music in Music Education from Baylor University (2019). I am originally from Michigan, growing up in Midland and Shepherd (just south of Mt. Pleasant). I taught early childhood and elementary music on Fort Hood in Texas for 6 years and currently teach early childhood classes (ages birth-8) at CMS-East Lansing and Detroit. My primary instrument is my voice.

Our class will meet for eight weeks. With one exception, our class will be on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-6:30 pm. The week of June 22, our class will meet on Monday evening instead of Tuesday, still at 5:30. Our calendar will look like this:

- Week 1: Tuesday, June 9
- Week 2: Tuesday, June 16
- Week 3: Monday, June 22 (No class on June 23)
- Week 4: Tuesday, June 30
- Week 5: Tuesday, July 7
- Week 6: Tuesday, July 14
- Week 7: Tuesday, July 21
- Week 8: Tuesday, July 28*

Our final class on July 28 will look a little different that the others, as we will have a short Zoom Party at the end of class. I will have more information about this as it gets closer. All class meetings will take place on Zoom. The link for our class is: https://msu.zoom.us/j/92393865136. The password for this link is cmsd2020. Please do not share this link or password with anyone.

Throughout the summer, I will utilize Google Drive to share materials that your student will need for our class. Those materials can be viewed using this link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12nbzjLOwV30UsIsagcKMBYIdIbLkQr?usp=sharing. I will also announce in class (or via email through the CMS-Detroit office) when new materials have been made available. In this folder, I will also have our welcome letter and class calendar posted.

As we continue to adjust and transition our in-person experience to an online-only format, I ask for your help and patience throughout the semester. Along with this letter, you should be receiving a letter from the Community Music School with some guidelines for online classes. Please take some time to look over them carefully. A couple that I would like to highlight:
• Please make sure that your child has adequate space for movement, a good source of light, and a space that is quiet enough for them to hear themselves, their classmates, and me.

• Please make sure that the audio/video equipment that your child needs is set up and ready to go at the start of class time. Our time together is precious, and we want to make the very most of it. (I recommend having headphones near by in case there is extra feedback from Zoom.)

• Please make sure that you as the parent/guardian are still with your child throughout our class. You do not have to be on camera but should still be present. (There may be times when I ask for adults to participate in an activity with their child, such as helping to come up with creative movements for a song/activity). This is so that you can be on hand to assist with any technical issues and to make sure that the child still has supervision during our class meetings.

• For students, it is important that they listen very closely and follow directions as much as possible. At times, I will ask students to sing out loud, but the microphones may be muted. This is because Zoom as a platform does not allow for multiple speakers/singers to be heard at the same time. In order for students to get every possible benefit from this class, they should be singing and moving with the group whenever possible.

• Please make sure that all snacks, toys, distractions, etc. are put away or taken care of during our class time. Again, our time together is precious, and we want to make the most of it by staying focused. (Plus, snacking and singing at the same time can be a safety hazard!)

• If your child is going to be absent from class, please contact the CMS-Detroit office prior to class to let them know.

If you have any questions throughout the course of the summer semester, please feel free to reach out to the office or ask to talk with me after class. I am always happy to chat with you. I am looking forward to seeing all my students at our first class on June 9 at 5:30 pm. Thank you for the privilege of making musical moments with your student!

Musically,
Whitney Mayo
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Michigan State University