

Kay Siebert - Music



Kay Siebert is the daughter of two music teachers. She grew up in a home filled with music, so it's really no surprise that she followed her parents into the profession. "Music was just too hard to stay away from," Mrs. Siebert says. "I love teaching children music. It's my favorite thing. I think everyone should have music in their life in some way. It adds richness and a dimension that isn't there otherwise."

A typical Fall week finds Mrs. Siebert keeping up a busy performance schedule with the Youth Choir while rehearsing with second-through-fifth graders for the December 8 Holiday Music Program. "Right now we're working on *Five Golden Rings* and children are giving up their recesses to come in and practice the instruments," she says. "I love it when kids are excited about music making."

Mrs. Siebert is always excited about making music with children. "I have the best job at school," she says. "Music allows kids to express themselves. The text speaks to them. It challenges them to work as a group to create something beautiful. It gives

them the opportunity to try new instruments, to explore talents they may not know they have. It reaches kids that maybe aren't being reached in other ways."

Mrs. Siebert's enthusiasm is unflagging, as is her patience, even when she is directing four grades at an end-of-the-day rehearsal involving students singing, speaking and playing instruments. "I am a patient person," she shrugs. "It's the way I was brought up."

Mrs. Siebert says all children can sing. Some struggle with pitch matching, but working with them helps them improve and they are still able to find joy in making music.

Mrs. Siebert has the distinction of being the only teacher at TCS who teaches every child, with the exception of the afternoon Pre-K. How does she keep track of all those students? "It's not hard for me," she says, "except there always seem to be a couple of kids whose names I mix up. This year is no exception. They straightened me out, though."

Mrs. Siebert's affection for her students is particularly evident at the end of the year when she invariably becomes emotional as she says goodbye to her eighth graders. "I love the students here," she says. "They're friendly, affectionate, talented and enthusiastic. It's a great place to work." For each of the 13 years she has taught here, Mrs. Siebert has sent those graduates off with a song in their hearts, *and* her coveted marshmallow brownie recipe as a sweet reminder of their time together.

In addition to her work at TCS, Mrs. Siebert is director of the Kansas Youth Chorale, a community children's choir made up of fourth through eighth graders who audition for spots in the group. The Youth Chorale performs a wide variety of music at two concerts a year.