



Daviess County Public Schools

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EVES students make big music with little instruments

East View Elementary School music teacher Deidre Goodman knew she had been teaching for a long time when she realized some of her students are the children of previous students! She is always looking for ways to make music education new, exciting and interesting, so when she noticed that several of her students mentioned a desire to play a stringed instrument, she had her answer.

“A lot of my students were telling me they had a guitar at home, but the strings were broken,” Goodman said. “Or some shared experiences from home, saying things like, ‘My Dad plays, my uncle plays, my sister has ...’ while expressing an interest in learning to play an instrument themselves. I took the idea and ran with it! I’ve never played a string instrument, but thought, ‘Why not give it a shot? I’ve taught everything else in music; I can do this too!’”

Goodman decided that the ukulele would be the perfect instrument to introduce to her students. “Ukuleles are small enough for children’s fingers to fit just right on the frets,” she said, adding, “Ukuleles are very affordable!”

But she needed enough to be able to provide an instrument for every child in her music classes. That’s when she came up with the idea of raising money through the DonorsChoose website. Thanks to an outpouring of support from parents and other members of the community, she raised nearly \$1,000 in only four days – including enough money to buy strings, tuners and an electric/acoustic ukulele.

Her husband, Brandon Goodman, made specialized racks so the instruments could be displayed and stored on the wall, and EVES art teacher Mary-Ave Poole contributed her talent by painting the racks with colorful designs.

Deidre Goodman bought 30 ukuleles – five each in six bright colors – and has recently begun lessons with her fourth- and fifth-grade students. “Second- and third-grades will start in November, and kindergarten and first grade will start after Christmas,” Goodman said. She is looking forward to inviting the EVES community to a musical performance after the students are more familiar with the instruments.

“The memories we make in music are forever remembered!” Goodman said. The kids and I are having a blast learning to play and learning the history of this Hawaiian instrument. I can’t wait to see how much we learn!”

Note to media – Our media partners are invited to visit East View Elementary School at 6104 Kentucky 405 to see ukulele lessons in action! Music classes take place from 7:50 to 8:40 a.m. Monday through Thursday for fifth-graders; and from 8:40 to 9:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday for fourth grade. For more information, contact Deidre Goodman at 270-852-7350 or deidre.goodman@daviess.kyschools.us

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