

Erin Phillips

It is such a blessing and an honor to be nominated for February's WACH Fox and SCEA Teacher of the Month! Thank you so much!

I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Music from Lander University in May 2006. After that, I went on to earn my Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. In 2009, I returned to Lander University to study music education. Two years later, I received K-12 Certification in Music Education with choral emphasis. I am currently a member of the National Association for Music Education, American Choral Directors Association, the Palmetto State Teachers Association, Alpha Chi Honor Society, and the National Music Honor Society of Pi Kappa Lambda. I am currently serving as the chair for SCMEA Choral Division's Solo & Ensemble festival, as well as the secondary choral arts lead teacher for Richland 2.

This is my fourth year in Richland School District 2 as the director of choral activities at Ridge View High School in Columbia, South Carolina. The students in the choral program are very active throughout the state. Students participate in a plethora of events, including SC All-State Choir, Central Region Choir, District Honor Choir, Solo & Ensemble, South Carolina ACDA Honor Choir, National ACDA Honor Choir, and USC Honors Chorus. The choirs of Ridge View are also very active in performing. The choirs participate in a number of events including four concerts a school year, Richland District 2 High School Showcase, Choral Performance Assessment, Lander Choral Festival and the Music in the Parks Festival at Carowinds. The choirs have been very successful over the years, receiving Excellent and Superior ratings at those festivals. I was fortunate enough, last school year, to take ten students to perform at Carnegie Hall, under the baton of USC's Dr. Alicia Walker. I believe that a "hands on" learning experience is vital to a student's well-rounded music education and that is what I strive to provide all of the students in the choral program. I am very proud of the programs at Ridge View High School and consider myself blessed to work with the students that I get to work with everyday.

I recently moved to Ridgeway, South Carolina with my husband, Al, and our three children: Emilee, 14, AJ, 10, and Keaton, 3. Emilee enjoys dancing, playing softball, and reading. AJ is a Georgia Football fan, enjoys video games, and playing Little League baseball. Keaton is a very spirited little girl who loves anything relating to the movies Frozen and Trolls. She also loves spending time with her cousins. Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family on the lake, traveling, and reading.