

**Interview between Andria Mullan (A) Tri-school Woodwind and Percussion- and Middle School Concert/Jazz Band- and HS Symphonic/ Pep and Jazz Band Instructor and Vicky O'Bresly (V) - just HPC President
11/10/11**

V. Tell me a bit about your musical responsibilities for the schools?

A. I teach woodwinds and percussion in the 5th grade- all 3 elementary schools, 6th grade bands, 7/8th Concert Band and Jazz Band- PMS, Symphonic Band/Pep Band, and Jazz Band at PHS

V. How do you organize your schedule across the schools and what does your typical week look like?

A. Every day for me starts out at the shared PMS/PHS Band classroom. I teach High School classes first thing in the morning, 7/8th grade and then 6th grade. Three days a week I travel to the elementary schools in the afternoon for 5th grade woodwind and percussion classes.

V. Can you tell me something about your background, especially before you became a music/instrumental/vocal teacher for our schools?

A. Before teaching in Piedmont, I taught high school music at a small rural district in Pennsylvania. In that job, I taught high school band (marching band and jazz band), Music Theory, and Rock and Roll History as well as small group pull-out lessons.

V. What has surprised you most about your work these past few years?

A. I have been most surprised at how the district has been so responsive and supportive to my ideas and to the needs of students music education. Also, it's been interesting to see how the field of education is a constantly changing environment and how that impacts our work.

V. What do you feel most proud of from your work?

A. I'm very proud of the progress our High School Pep Band and Symphonic Band have made over the last few years. The students have dramatically improved musically and become a supportive network for each other. This type of community is what I have always hoped for, for this group. The feeling of working together, challenging each other, and the

school spirit they show is phenomenal! It is truly fun to be a part of this!

Also, I am so proud of the growth of our Jazz Band program! Students are very interested in this opportunity and the district has noticed that. Jazz is really like a different variation of the skills learned in classical music- it's a different language. Recently, I have noticed how my 8th and 9th graders are really starting to get that language and it shows in their rhythmic sight-reading and creative ideas. Most of them have been playing Jazz with me for several years now. When they can sight-read difficult syncopated rhythms- because they have seen and heard them before- I am really impressed with what they retain. It feels like I must be doing something right!

V. What would you like to see, in terms of your work, going forward?

A. I really would love to see more community involvement with our music program. I want our groups to be more involved in the community and also to bring community members into our group. We've talked about the idea of a parent night where parents dust off their instruments and sit in with the Band- I think the community can expect to see some events like that in the upcoming years.

V. Can you tell me something about yourself that few people know, until now that is?

A. I am an animal LOVER! Since the age of 12 I have avoided eating animals, and now I avoid all animal products whenever possible. It just makes me feel good both physically and emotionally. I am very conscientious about this and it's very important to me. It's not something that's hard to do- it's just a part of my life and it's great to spread the word that people can live healthily this way not look negatively on others choices.

V. What are the best ways for people to find out what is happening with music and our students?

D. I'd love to see a music newsletter at some point- but until then, upcoming events are listed in the weekly bulletins for each site, on the calendars posted online, and in the student handbooks at PHS and PMS.