

George keeps in tune with profession

Piqua teacher loves music, education

BY JOHN HAUER

For the Daily Call
editorial@dailycall.com

PIQUA — Washington Intermediate School music teacher Pam George has always had a song in her head. As far back as she can remember, she has been involved in music. "I loved school, and I loved music," she said. "It was only natural that I wanted to become a music teacher and share my loves with others."

A Dayton native, George graduated from Meadowdale High School in 1987. She played softball and volleyball for the Lions, but most of her time was spent with the school band. Outside of school, she was a member of a Winter Guard dance/drill team. An accomplished flute player, George was part of All-City and All-

State bands and orchestras. For two years, she had the honor of playing in the Ohio State Fair Band.

She took her talent to Wright State University and earned a bachelor's degree in music education. Later, she completed a master's degree in education with certification in language arts and social studies. During her years at WSU, George taught private music lessons to junior high and high school students for Hauer Music House and Wright State.

After college, George and her husband, Brian, moved to Lee County, Fla., where she taught grades K-5 music for three years. "I organized the county Honor Choir," she said. "It was a good job, and we liked the warmer weather, but my husband and I wanted to move back to Ohio to be closer to family."

In 1998, they moved. Her husband took a position with the Piqua Police Department, and she stayed home to raise

See George/Page 4



MIKE ULLERY/STAFF PHOTO

Washington Intermediate School teacher Pam George works with students in the music room last week.

George

Continued from page 1

the children. "I returned to teaching after three years," George said. "I accepted an arts/music job with Piqua City Schools." Her official title was unified arts teacher because she taught both art and music at High Street School.

Today, George teaches only music. She splits her time by teaching grades 1-3 at High Street in the morning and grades 4-6 at Washington in the afternoon. While she can play most instruments — "I'm a beginner with the guitar," she does not teach band. "I teach about music and music history and music appreciation," she said. "We use classroom instruments, small percussion instruments and xylophones. Playing band instruments is taught by a band teacher."

Her students study music from around the world. "I tie in music to the other subjects, and we will study music as it relates to other cultures," she said. "I really like to work with the different grade levels because I get to see their talents progress and mature over six years. The younger ones are so full of energy, and they love music." The Washington students are creating a music history timeline on one of the walls.

Outside the classroom, George works with Sue Subler on the Destination Imagination Project. "We meet with students after school and present them with challenges where they have to solve a problem or develop a plan," George said. "The students had to build a structure with limited materials, and in another project, they had to write their own play."

She credits the success of her students with the experienced and involved staff at both schools. "I get to work with wonderful groups of people," she said. "I'm very fortunate to be a teacher. I get to see that spark that kids get when they master something. That feeling of helping kids is inspiring and addicting."

George has been recognized for her successes as an effective teacher. She was named a Master Teacher by the Piqua City School District. Last school year, she was a finalist for the district's Teacher of the Year Award.

At home, George enjoys scrapbooking. Her husband has been with the Piqua Police force almost 20 years. The couple has two daughters. Alana is in the eighth grade at the junior high, and Amanda is a sixth-grader at Washington.