

## Dear Eisenhower Middle School Choir Parents, Guardians, and Students,

My name is William Gonzales and I am very pleased to introduce myself as Eisenhower Middle School's Choir Director and Exploratory Music teacher. This introductory letter will provide you with a bit of my personal and professional history as well as my goals for the coming year so that we can start the year running. There is great work to be achieved and I am eager to get started.

I am a New Mexico native and graduated from UNM in 2010 with a degree in Music Education. After graduating, I spent 6 years in the Washington, DC metro area teaching and studying at the University of Maryland, where I received my master's degree in Music Education.

The majority of my experience came from Newport Mill Middle School where I grew a choir class of 42 students to a functioning program consisting of over 130 singers and 4 ensembles. Our choir students had the pleasure to sing for Maryland Comptroller, Peter Francott, sang the national anthem multiple times at Washington Wizard's games, and received excellent and superior ratings at various choral adjudication festivals in addition to performing four concert programs annually. I consider myself a democratic music educator and I actively work to ensure my teaching practices promote access, equity, and excellence. I have included [a link to an mp3 recording](#) of a NMMS Advanced Treble Chorus performance which received a superior rating at Maryland State Chorus Festival, please listen and enjoy.



*Newport Mill Middle School Chorus Instruction and Performances  
Photo credit: Neil Rubino and Michael Dunphy*

Additionally, I was lucky to work as an ensemble manager and assistant director for the Strathmore Children's Chorus Concert Chorus, a vocal ensemble for females grades 9–12. This prestigious organization allowed me to work with highly-dedicated students and professionals to create exception choral music to present on a world-renowned stage. I have included [a link to a YouTube video](#) of me conducting a combined performance of "Hey Jude" at the *Strathmore Meets the Beatles* concert, please watch and enjoy.



*Strathmore Children's Chorus, Concert Chorus Performances  
Photo credit: Jim Saah and Music Center at Strathmore*

Though leaving the choirs and communities at Newport Mill Middle School and Strathmore Children's Chorus was difficult, I am ecstatic to return to the Southwest and join the community at Eisenhower Middle School. This choir program has a long history of engaging many students to achieve personal and musical excellence, and I hope to continue this tradition. Going into the 2017-18 school year, I have two provisional goals for which I would love your support:

- ★ **Engagement and Recruitment.** With a choir program of this caliber, we need to engage our community and recruit some help for our wonderfully supportive Choir Boosters. There is much we want to accomplish for our students, which makes us so appreciative of any help we can get.
- ★ **Maintain Traditions and Expectations.** The EMS community has grown to expect great things from this choir program. I want to ensure that we can maintain the many traditions established over the past years to the best of our ability with the size of the program and the support that we receive.

Thank you very much for allowing me to introduce myself through this extended message. I look forward meeting and working with you to achieve great things for the students and community of Eisenhower Middle School.

**William Gonzales**

*Choir Director and Exploratory Music Teacher  
Eisenhower Middle School, APS*