

**Family. Friends. Community.**

**Christy Jacobs**  
 Ins Agcy Inc  
 Christy Jacobs-Gehring, Agent  
 5081 Waterford Dr  
 Elyria, OH 44035  
 Bus: 440-934-8818

**We're all in this together.**  
 State Farm has a long tradition of being there.  
**Get to a better State®.**  
 CALL ME TODAY.

**State Farm**  
 Providing Insurance and Financial Services

\*Discounts vary by state. State Farm Automobile Insurance Company • Bloomington, IL

**ELYRIA SCHOOLS**

# It's all about teamwork

## Fresh discoveries with each new class motivate teacher

**By Carol Harper**  
 charper@morningjournal.com  
 @mj\_charper on Twitter

Adventures of first grade amaze teacher Lisa Ward every year.

"This is my 20th year. It's fun. I just love it," said Ward, one of three first grade teachers at McKinley Elementary School in Elyria.

"This morning (May 31) we did a move up day: The kids visited their classroom for next year so I had the little kindergartners," Ward said, marveling at how much her first-graders grew in about nine months. "And my students went to second grade rooms. It gives them that sense of comfort. They know who their teacher is and who their friends are going to be.

"Our first grade team gives a little folder for every kindergarten student," Ward said. "It has a book for the family to keep and a letter that tells who the first grade teachers are. There's a website for rainy days during the summer, and sight words for first grade."

At the end of each year the 60 first grade students expand their experience of the wider world without leaving the McKinley campus.

"We call it camp week," Ward said. "We had it last week and we extended it to



CAROL HARPER — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Teacher Lisa Ward plays with first-grade students during Camp Day, a long tradition at McKinley Elementary School, 620 E. River St., Elyria. The students read books about camp in tents set up in the room, and worked on camp crafts, such as creating bookmarkers with letters.

**FREE Delivery • FREE Haul Away • You Won't Pay More in Our Store**  
\*FREE DELIVERY FOR APPLIANCE PURCHASES \$499 AND UP. TELEVISION PURCHASES EXCLUDED. SEE STORE FOR DETAILS.

**CLOSED MONDAY JULY 4, 2016**

**0% INTEREST FOR 12 MOS. ON ANY PURCHASE OVER \$300**  
 OFFER GOOD ONLY 6-24-16 TO 7-4-16

**JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> SAVINGS!**

**FRIGIDAIRE GALLERY**

**JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> savings!**

June 22 - July 13, 2016

**SAVE \$500-\$1,750\***  
 on select State Finish appliance packages

**GE APPLIANCES**

**JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
 Sales Event  
 Now - July 13

\*The combined savings of mail-in rebate and in-store savings. See dealer for details.

June 22 - July 13, 2016

**FRIGIDAIRE**

MSRP 2856 SAVE 977

**JULY 4TH SALE PRICE \$1879** for this 4-piece package

OVER 180 WAYS TO ORGANIZE WITH ADJUSTABLE INTERIOR STORAGE

ONE-TOUCH OPTIONS

SMUDGE-PROOF™ STAINLESS STEEL

4X MORE WATER COVERAGE

CONVECTION

24" dishwasher FGID2466QF

21.9 cu. ft. counter-depth french door refrigerator DGHF2366PF

1.7 cu. ft. over-the-range microwave FGMV175QF

30" freestanding range FGEF3035RF/FGGF3035RF

Same Price Gas or Electric

MSRP \$5056 SAVE \$2157

**JULY 4TH SALE PRICE \$2899** for this 4-piece package\* AFTER REBATES

**\$499**

Joe Jr.™ KJ13RH

COMPARE TO THE BIG GREEN EGG

FREE DELIVERY AND ASSEMBLY ON KAMADO JOE GRILLS

Join Us for a night of Food and Fun While learning to use Wolf Cooking Products and Small Appliances

Demos by Deanna Lund & Jim Jennings

Reservations Required Limited Seating

**JULY 7, 2016 5-9 PM**  
**STEWART'S LOWER SHOWROOM**  
 CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE RESERVATION 440.365.7321

**WOLF**

**SUB-ZERO | WOLF | ASKO**

You won't find them in ordinary kitchens. Or at ordinary stores.

Sub-Zero, the preservation specialist. Wolf, the cooking specialist. You'll find them only at your local kitchen specialist.

**KAMADO JOE**

Ignite your passion for grilling.

It comes with everything you need to grill, sear and smoke!

INCLUDES:  
 Premium 18" Ceramic Grill with Sturdy Cart, Locking Wheels, Built-in Thermometer  
 Finished Folding Bamboo Side Shelves/Handle  
 Divide & Conquer Flexible Cooking System  
 Multi-Position Stainless Steel Rack  
 Two 304 Stainless Steel Half-Grill Grates  
 Two Ceramic Half-Heat Deflectors  
 Patented Slide-Out Ash Drawer - New, now standard in 2014  
 Grill Gripper  
 Ash Tool

**\$949**

**CLASSIC JOE** RED WITH BASE KJ03RH

**Stewart's** TV & APPLIANCE

**Celebrating 70 Years**  
 1946-2016



**ELYRIA**

# Making it ring

## Students of strings make instruments ring

**By Richard Payerchin**  
*rpayerchin@morningjournal.com*  
*@MJ\_JournalRick on Twitter*

Students of strings make their instruments ring under the conducting of one of Elyria's newest teachers.

David Pope, 35, started the 2015-16 school year as director of orchestras for Elyria High School and Northwood Middle School.

Every musician has to start somewhere, sometime. It is Pope's job to help those beginning moments along when the budding players are sixth-graders in Elyria schools.

"These guys are fun," Pope said about the youths on a May visit before the school year ended. "They smile when they do it right and I like it when I see them get frustrated when they don't do it right, because it shows they care."

At the end of the year, the students were practicing an arrangement of the folk song "Sourwood Mountain."

The sixth-graders file into the classroom. There are 17 students with 10 violins, three with violas, two with cellos and two with basses.

"Everyone get settled, please," Pope says, and the morning tune-up begins.

At the start of the school year, the students were strangers to strings. By May, Pope has guided them to make music by coordinating heart, hands, eyes, ears, instruments.

"I know these guys aren't perfectly in tune yet, by far," Pope said. "We're always striving to get better at that."

"The first time they play a piece — and they know this — it's usually really terrible," he said.

The young players need three skills — how to read music, how to work the left hand on the strings and how to work the right hand on the bow.

"So it's like a triangle and then eventually they're putting all three skills together," Pope said. It's a process that takes months to learn, he said, so the pace of the class is deliberate.

A music "drone" tones out so the students can tune their instruments to it. The students are seated, but Pope stays on his feet, wandering and watching and listening.

"You're helping each other, that's awesome," Pope said to some students. "If you're helping each other, that means you're getting smarter, which is a good



ERIC BONZAR — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Instructor Dr. David Pope plays along with his students during orchestra practice at Northwood Middle School, May 25.

thing."

Pope asks one student to play a solo to test her instrument and the others' ears.

"Was she a lot off or a little off?" Pope said.

"A little off," the students answer, rating the violin a 9 on a scale of 1, least in tune, to 10, most in tune.

The 2015-16 school year was Pope's first in Ohio.

A native of Maryville, Tenn., Pope started playing cello in fourth grade. He also got his first teaching job there, working with middle school and high school students.

Pope went to Florida State University for his bachelor's degree and doctorate in music education, with a break in between for his master's degree from the University of South Carolina.

He landed in Ohio after his wife, Dr. Sara Pope, had a rotation studying medicine in Elyria. An emergency room physician, Sara Pope now is doing her residency at UH Elyria Medical Center.

Transplanted from the south, Pope said they bought winter coats last September.

"It's been a change of pace but I really like it," Pope said. "It's nice seeing



ERIC BONZAR — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Eleven-year-old Brooke Lesko, left, watches and mimics the movements of Sydney Yates, 12, during orchestra practice at Northwood Middle School, May 25.

seasons again."

His only complaint about the weather was slipping on ice and breaking his shoulder in January. The injury has potential to be devas-

tating for a string player, but he made a full recovery.

Away from Elyria schools, Pope continues to direct Florida State University's summer student mu-

sic program. He also directs other programs, including the orchestra of Case Western Reserve University students who play instruments but are not music majors.

"I wear a lot of hats," Pope said. "But I enjoy it, I enjoy what I do. It's purely because I love what I do and it's a lot of fun. I don't

**RING » PAGE 3**

# Cascade Park

## LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS

*The redevelopment of 19 Acres in Cascade Park has begun. This will bring new restrooms, a new playground and new shelters. It will also include a restoration of the northern trail. The renovation is expected to have a late Fall completion date.*

**www.MetroParks.cc | (440) 458-5121**

**LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS**





ERIC BONZAR — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Twelve-year-old Ryan Kowalski strums his double bass during class at Northwood Middle School, May 25.



ERIC BONZAR — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Twelve-year-old Samantha Parsons plays her viola during class at Northwood Middle School.

**“You don’t realize how many teachers actually get to watch their students grow from sixth grade, to have the same students every year.”**

— Instructor Dr. David Pope



ERIC BONZAR — THE MORNING JOURNAL

Instructor Dr. David Pope helps Maya Lopez, 12, tune her violin during class at Northwood Middle School, May 25.

## Ring

FROM PAGE 2

do good with a lot of down time.”

As a youth, Pope explained he studied cello with the same teacher for eight years.

When he talks to the sixth-graders, he sounds excited to be with them for coming school years. He tells the sixth-graders about how he wants them to have chances to be successful.

“You don’t realize how

many teachers actually get to watch their students grow from sixth grade, to have the same students every year,” Pope said. “To me that’s really fun because we build a longer relationship than just, I had you in English one year, let’s move on. I get to watch you guys get better.”

All three Elyria middle schools have orchestra programs. Pope splits teaching duties with his colleague David Yee.

Their long-term goal is to grow the orchestra program overall. To start, stu-

dents pick what instrument they want to play.

The sixth-graders this year helped by serving as orchestra ambassadors during an instrument “petting zoo” for fifth-graders to try out the strings.

The class does not just play the same thing over and over. The students would get bored doing that, Pope said, and he admitted he would get bored, too.

This year Pope and the students played “Staff

Wars,” a video game to practice reading music, in a tournament styled after the NCAA’s March Madness, complete with brackets to log the results.

As they go along, sometimes he will record the performance on video so the students can hear who is doing things right and who still needs more practice.

The young musicians learn enough material to

hold three concerts a year. The sixth-graders joined with grades seven and eight to make a 180-student ensemble.

“Logistical nightmare, but these guys did a great job with it,” Pope said.

At the end of the class, the students take a final minute to warm up. It is 60 seconds of cacophony until Pope calls them back to order.

“The very beginning – bah, bah-bah-bah, bah-bah-bah. Cellos and bass, you start us, ready?”

“Here we go: Cellos and bass. One, two and a one-two-three-four,” Pope said.

The students moved their bows over the strings for two minutes, making their instruments ring to create the sound of “Sourwood Mountain.”

**\$49** for a 60 minute massage.

**NEW ELYRIA LOCATION! — 409 East Ave. Suite C**

**The Kneaded Touch, LLC**  
**634 N Leavitt Rd (Right Off RT 58)**  
 plaza next to Wendys/Enterprise Amherst  
**www.kneadedtouchinc.com**  
 Phone: (440) 985-2741  
 E-mail: info@kneadedtouchinc.com

**“Your Child’s Home Away from Home”**

Providing full time, part time, child care with a preschool program included. Our program includes children from ages six weeks to ten years old. For more information or to enroll please call us at (440) 326-0048 or email info@parkplacelearning.org

**524 Park Place Elyria, OH 44035 326-0048**  
**Parkplacelearning.org**

**Botamer Florist**  
and more

*“We listen...  
We create...  
We deliver...”*

Exceeding all of your floral expectations”

**WE’RE MARRIED TO perfection**  
Start your wedding memories here

online, all the time: [www.botamerflorist.com](http://www.botamerflorist.com) • 440.323.3108

**NEW** *Now Available*

**FREE gift with scout purchase, while supplies last.**

**Nicole Kay’s Boutique**

**230 Market Square Elyria**  
Next to Target



# Teacher

FROM PAGE 1

today. It's a first grade tradition here at McKinley. It started long before I got here."

"We have day camp activities, crafts, physical activities like the parachute, and kids get to read books about camping in tents in our classrooms," Ward said.

"It's a great way to bring parent volunteers in to run different craft stations and the parachute," Ward said. "They made beaded friendship bracelets, playdough, water bottle maracas, and picture frames."

Ward asked children to sit at tables, each with a different colored box holding craft items such as scissors, crayons and glue. From a pool of foam letters, the children created bookmarks on metallic card stock.

She encouraged them to think of something they would like to make, and supported their decisions.

In a complicated society, teamwork helps children.

"I know now how it truly takes a village to raise a child," Ward said. "It really is parents and educators and support staff and other peers. It takes everyone who's involved in that child's life to make them who they are to become."

She's thrilled by each transition from the first day of school — when her students walked in the door wide-eyed and sometimes frightened — to moments of understanding.

"And in first grade, especially, reading happens. Almost all first-graders come in almost non-readers, and they leave reading books. That's a first grade thing. They make their most growth in reading during the first grade. They need to become those readers."

"They grow in different ways," Ward said. "One little girl had a hard time making friends, getting along. She does do that now. She gets along and makes friends."

"On a learning front, one of my little boys struggled with math, everything about math. But he's leaving here ready for second grade math. He's confident now," Ward said. "Even if they don't come in with it, you want to see growth."

There are many difficulties for a teacher during a school year, she said.

"I would say most recently in my career the biggest heartbreak has been the loss of a parent," Ward said. "In the last two years I've had four children who have recently lost a parent, so that's been the biggest heartbreak, because fam-



Lisa Ward, a 20-year veteran first-grade teacher, hands a student a letter L to use on a bookmarker during Camp Day at McKinley Elementary School, 620 E. River St., Elyria. Camp Day is a long tradition that predates Ward's time at the school, she said.

CAROL HARPER — THE MORNING JOURNAL

ilies are so important to first-graders. They love to come in the door and tell you about their families.

"That is what has weighed heavily on my heart the last two years," Ward said. "I can't imagine being a first-grader and losing a parent. I didn't have that early in my career."

She appreciates summer activities such as low-cost camps staged by Elyria Parks and Recreation, and free summer reading programs at Elyria Library.

"I just hope families take advantage of the great summer things happening in the city," Ward said.

The underlying motivation for teaching makes each new class an adventure.

"I love it. I truly love it. It may sound cliché to say, 'I do it because I love the kids,' but it's the truth. I love to see them learn, to grow, to make friends, and to be excited about school."

With mention of the end of the school year, Ward's smile falls.

"I'm always sad to see the end of the year," Ward said quietly.

"I don't like to do the countdown on how many days are left. But I think the end of the year is also hopeful: Hoping that over the summer they spend



First grade students read books about camp while sitting in tents in the classroom during Camp Day at the end of the school year at McKinley Elementary School, 620 E. River St., Elyria.

CAROL HARPER — THE MORNING JOURNAL

time with family and have fun and learn all summer long."

So she and the other first

grade teachers at McKinley create orange and yellow handprint campfires on bulletin boards and dol-

lop ice cream into rootbeer floats to build a bridge to summer with camp activities.

"It's a nice way to end our year with fun and learning happening at the same time."

**"On a learning front, one of my little boys struggled with math, everything about math. But he's leaving here ready for second grade math. He's confident now. Even if they don't come in with it, you want to see growth."**

— Teacher Lisa Ward

**CASH FOR YOUR SCRAP VEHICLES AND METALS!**

Don't Trash It. Cash It!

**RECYCLE**

**Hours**  
Monday - Friday 8 - 4:30  
Call for pricing

**bluestar recycling center**

**440-323-3950**  
201 Williams St. - off Broad by EMH  
[www.BluestarRecycling.com](http://www.BluestarRecycling.com)

**Bill BAKERS** 15 East Ave., Elyria

*"Serving Elyria Since 1950"*

**WE SERVICE & REPAIR MAJOR APPLIANCES, LARGE SCREEN TVs**

**WE SELL PARTS OVER THE COUNTER**

Reconditioned Appliances  
great Savings  
on Washers, Dryers,  
Refrigerators & Ranges

**322-2325**  
Lorain 245-3420  
[www.billbakersinc.com](http://www.billbakersinc.com)

**BILL BAKER'S**  
DEPOT STREET  
BROAD STREET

EAST AVE.  
Fifth Third Bank

▲ N



# Succeed. Believe. Achieve.

Ohio Business College Has Your Education Solutions

## *Begin your tomorrow today - Become a Medical Assistant!*

**Start training in  
healthcare, business or  
information technology.**

**For a complete list of  
programs visit us online  
or call 888.413.6070**



**Ohio  
Business  
College**

*Giving you the power to earn.*



[ohiobusinesscollege.edu](http://ohiobusinesscollege.edu)





**WE DON'T SEE OLD PEOPLE—WE SEE MOTHERS, FATHERS, SONS, DAUGHTERS, SISTERS, BROTHERS, GRANDMAS AND GRANDPAS.**

At Independence Village, we know each of our resident's lives is a story beyond their time with us. We don't just learn what they need now, we take the time to learn their whole story — how they came to this point in their life, and how they plan to lead the rest of it. Because of this, people make better friends here and lead a richer, more rewarding life.

Our communities are home to people from all walks of life. Politicians, business leaders, teachers, Veterans, even Olympic Athletes. But no matter if your accomplishments are big or small, you're always treated like you're a member of the family. Come see us today and see how your story will fit into our tapestry.

**Independence  
Village**

**STORYPOINT™**

Independent Living | Assisted Living  
Memory Care

[IndependenceVillages.com](http://IndependenceVillages.com)

**NOW LEASING!**

INDEPENDENCE VILLAGE  
OF AVON LAKE  
345 Lear Road  
Avon Lake, OH 44012

CALL TO SCHEDULE A VISIT  
440-249-6065

