Clarke Central High School fine arts department teacher Shelynn Scott plans to build the Chorus, Piano and Guitar program for students.

**AW:** Since you’ve taught chorus to a wide range of students from elementary to high school, why do you think enrollment drops in high school?

**SS:** There’s no chorus at the middle school, so you have music from kindergarten to fifth grade. Then, when they go to middle school, they can either do band or orchestra. So, when there’s not a presence and there’s not a chorus teacher there, cultivating those relationships and building those skills creates a deficit at the high school. So, I gotta go to middle schools and show that there’s an interest. There are kids at the middle school that want to sing in this county. I got to show that those kids want to be involved. Once I prove that and prove myself, then I will see the fruits of the labor here at the high school and we’ll have a booming program here.

**AW:** How do you plan to build up the chorus program while being here since that’s one of your goals?

**SS:** I have to go to the middle schools. Next semester, I unfortunately I have guitar, piano and music tech, so that means there’s no singing going on here. So when I leave here, I’ll go to Clarke Middle School on Mondays and Wednesdays. I’ll go to Burney Harris on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I’ll put in an hour and a half, whatever it takes, to get that number base up. I will continue working with the kids that I’m establishing relationships with right now. We will have morning rehearsal, teach (during) my day and then I’ll go to the middle schools.

**AW:** How are you going to continue your legacy since your mom, Georgia Scott, taught in the math department here in the district?

**SS:** My mom had math tutoring when she got to CCHS. She taught all day. She ran the tutoring for the entire school. Then, (when) we got home, we (would) drive in the driveway, there’d be two cars sitting there for math tutoring.

She loved it profoundly. She’s very passionate as she took her job very, very seriously. She took her responsibility teaching math very seriously. She thought it was just disrespectful not to come in 100% every day for students and teach them the way that they deserve to be taught, love on them the way that they deserve to be loved. So I got to remember that and stay focused and stay passionate about what I’m doing.

**SS:** You, middle and bottom: PURSUE PASSION: Clarke Central High School fine arts department teacher Shelynn Scott leads the chorus in a new song on Sept. 21. Scott, a CCHS alumna, returned home to bring chorus into a new light. "I’m an introvert. I found ways to be successful within being an introvert. It’s not a disadvantage. In my classroom, I’m more at home than I am at my actual home because I’m doing what I’m passionate about," Scott said. "If I were a singer, I would take my kids and get them up to do it. I will continue building up and proving myself, then I will see the fruits of the labor here at the high school and we’ll have a booming program here.

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**AW:** AS THE NEW CCHS chorus teacher, how will you encourage students to appreciate all genres of music?

**SS:** That’s my job to invoke that appreciation. I can’t make you like it, but I gotta at least sell it. I gotta show you, "Hey, this is what I like about it, this is what I find interesting about it and this is what I’ve taken from it to make me a better musician." You might not be all that interested in history, but this is how history can be connected to something else that you want to do. If you don’t know this and learn this, you can’t be successful at what it is that you want to do. Everything’s a building block.

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