Brittany Swann is a dedicated music educator with a passion for fostering creativity and musicality in students. She earned an undergraduate degree in Music Education from Georgia Southern University and went on to complete a Master's in Music Education at the University of Georgia. Currently, Mrs. Swann is pursuing a Doctorate in Music Education at Liberty University.

Certified as a Level II Orff educator, Mrs. Swann has a diverse teaching background, having instructed high school choir and piano, as well as general music and drama for K-12 students at a private special needs school. Currently she teaches general music at Blue Ridge Elementary School, where she also directs a chorus and an Orff ensemble.

Outside of the classroom, Mrs. Swann enjoys spending time with her family, husband and children (boy, 6, girl, 1, expecting a third in May) and is involved in her church's worship team and children's ministry. Believing in the importance of student-centered teaching experiences, Mrs. Swann empowers students to be active music makers, encouraging them to make decisions in the classroom while being guided by thoughtful instruction. Through innovative teaching methods, she aims to create an engaging and supportive environment that nurtures the love of music in every student.

What made you decide to become an elementary music teacher?

Elementary music found me. I originally started out teaching high school choir and piano and outside of Charlotte, I decided to move closer to home and interviewed for a high school position and ended up being placed in a K-2 music teaching position and have found a calling to elementary music!

What does a typical day look like in your music classroom?

You will find us moving, singing, playing, acting, exploring, and actively making music. I try my best to keep my students engaged through activities that fully involve them and their creativeness.

What do you enjoy most about teaching music to young students?

I love the young students' creative capabilities and their curiosity. They are always willing to explore and create.

What is one of your favorite lessons or activities to teach, and why?

I love teaching music through stories, whether they are already made stories or student created. This year I chose to do a blues unit and students created their own blues stories and they were so brilliant. I love teaching with stories because every student can relate to it and it makes the lessons engaging and memorable. I often find students singing the songs we do around the building.

How do you keep students engaged and excited about music?

I like to keep them involved in the learning process. They are active and moving throughout class.

How do you connect with students who may be shy or unsure about participating?

I focus on creating a safe, encouraging environment where students feel comfortable being themselves. I give them different ways to participate—through movement, instruments, or listening—so they can engage at their own pace. As trust grows, confidence follows.

What challenges come with teaching elementary music, and how do you handle them?

Managing student behavior can be a challenge, especially in a high-energy, movement-based classroom. I address this by setting clear expectations, building strong relationships, and keeping students actively engaged so they feel successful and valued.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to become an elementary music teacher?

Love children first and music second. Strong relationships, flexibility, and joy in teaching matter just as much as musical skill. Be willing to learn, adapt, and grow alongside your students. Seek out local music teacher groups and chapters like Orff, Kodaly, etc. in your area, they can make a world of difference in both your teaching and student learning.

Who do you feel influenced you to become a music teacher?

It wasn't necessarily a person that influenced me, but in college I found myself teaching and leading in the ensembles I was a part of as well as led a children's choir at church. I found a love for teaching through these opportunities.