

## Spartan Spotlight: Ms. Demeka Kimpson, Band Teacher



Growing up in Charleston, Ms. Kimpson knew she'd one day be involved in the arts, either as a fashion designer, art teacher, or in her chosen profession as a band director. An educator for 21 years (15 of those spent at Sedgefield Middle), she teaches beginning, intermediate and advancing band students. Beyond her role as band teacher, Ms. Kimpson co-advises the SMS student government association and advises our

TRI-M National Music Honor Society; she's a member of the Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) committee; mentors new teachers through the National Association for Music Education (NAfME); and chairs the CMS Middle School Honors Band Clinic.

Ms. Kimpson describes the work she does each day at SMS with three words: "Loud, busy and fun!" She enjoys her role as the band teacher at SMS because she helps "children learn and develop the skill of playing a musical instrument. Band is a unique program that brings together students of all interests. In band, scholars also learn to work as a team and learn the purpose of developing healthy friendships that are based on trust, cooperation and unity."

Her favorite part of middle school is working with beginners in band and watching them grow musically throughout the years. "I'm super fortunate because unlike most teachers, I get to keep my kids all three years," she said. "I enjoy guiding them as they figure out their place, purpose and values, as well as how they see themselves and how they want people to see them."

Ms. Kimpson holds a bachelor's of art degree in music performance and a bachelor's of science degree in music education from Claflin University, and a master's of education in music education from Winthrop University. She heralds from a family of educators – her mother is a retired college administrator, her aunt was a professor of music and her two sisters teach English/CTE at the high school level.

A resident of Charlotte for 20 years, Ms. Kimpson enjoys spending her time outside of school sewing, knitting, crocheting, making jewelry, and making music. She also enjoys her time with her Russian blue cat, Amadeus, and her Chinese crested dog, Ming.