



Blue River Valley Schools

Home of the Vikings

4741 N. Viking Trail, Suite 101, New Castle, IN 47362
765-836-4816



Cultivating Communities...Growing Expectations...Empowering Dreams

Trent McCormick, Superintendent
Lori Dickerson, Assistant Superintendent
Beth King, Director of Student Programs

Kim Riley, Business Manager
Stephanie Morgan, Secretary

James Bales

Welcome and About Me!

Greetings BRV Family! My name is James Bales. This is the beginning of year 32 for me at BRV. I have the privilege of teaching students at every grade level for Blue River Valley Schools. I provide opportunities for students to become performers in vocal music and theater. I direct the Select Choir (5th & 6th Grade Choir), E.N.C.O.R.E! (Jr. High Choir), B.R.A.V.O! (High School Choir) as well as all of our Theatrical Productions. I also teach General Music to grades PK-6 and Theater Arts to grades 5 & 6. In addition to my school responsibilities, I serve as the music director at my church, direct a community children's choir and participate in community theater.

My Education and Professional Background

I earned a B.S. degree in Music Education from Ball State University with an area major allowing me to teach Vocal, General, and Instrumental music. My master's degree is from Olivet Nazarene University. I have continued to further my education by completing the "Creating Artistry" program at Butler University, a 3-summer intensive program working with the Indianapolis Children's Choir. I worked for several years with the Indianapolis Children's Choir as a Choir Coordinator and Regional Director. I continue to attend many different professional development opportunities every year.

My Educational Philosophy and Thoughts on Our School

Music is a basic part of what makes us human. It is a part of everyone's existence in some way. It has always been my desire to make a positive difference in the lives of others. My life's work is to pour what I have to share into the lives of my students. I have the distinct privilege of teaching children from pre-school until they graduate high school and then I often have the honor of teaching their children after they graduate and start their own families. I believe anyone can be taught to sing and I



Blue River Valley Schools

Home of the Vikings

4741 N. Viking Trail, Suite 101, New Castle, IN 47362
765-836-4816



Cultivating Communities...Growing Expectations...Empowering Dreams

Trent McCormick, Superintendent
Lori Dickerson, Assistant Superintendent
Beth King, Director of Student Programs

Kim Riley, Business Manager
Stephanie Morgan, Secretary

believe everyone should have the opportunity to learn how to express themselves in creative ways through the arts.

My Family

I currently live in Springport with my wife Tracy (also an educator) and my 6 children. My youngest child still attends BRV. Cora is a Junior. My older children also attended BRV or Union schools. Christopher and Mark are 27. Nicholas is 25 and Cassie is 23 Nathan is 20. As a family we attend Mt. Zion Wesleyan Church, and we travel to the country of Belize as often as we can to do mission work there with children and adults in their schools and churches.