

## Young Musicians of Alamance: Overview of program beginnings and progress

At a recent meeting of the Board of Advisors for the Young Musicians of Alamance, Beth Bader gave the following progress report....

The program has begun and that there are currently eight students. Prior to the first full session, there were two meetings with interested parents on April 11 and 18. The first parent meeting drew two families, each with one first-grader. On Wednesday, April 10, Ms. Bader was able to talk about the program to the children in their classrooms. On Saturday, April 17, five more families brought six children (1 set of twins). Both parent meetings were interpreted for Spanish-speaking parents.



Since those meetings, the students have had full 3-hour music lesson sessions on two Saturdays – April 25 and May 2. The staff are very pleased with the eagerness, attentiveness, excellent behavior, and their willingness to work and learn and correct. We are also taken with the friendliness of these children. And, their parents appear to be pleased as well. When asked if they had any questions, the parents said, “No.” And they felt comfortable enough leaving their children in our hands to leave the building while the children were having their lessons.

The Spring Term program will continue on Saturdays until June 6, when the schools’ Spring Term has ended. On that date we are working with the students to develop a performance for their parents to be held in the Fellowship Hall. Since Eastlawn is a year-round school, YMA will recommence with the original Eastlawn students on July 25 just after the students have returned to school. This summer session will end on August 22.

**Matthew Pfeuffer** is the YMA Program Director. He graduated from the music program of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh in 2014. Presently he is teaching orchestral instruments to fourth and fifth grade students in four Alamance County schools. He is also very active in two national music teachers’ organizations. Since he is new to the area, he has not yet been able to connect with community music groups but is eager to do so.



**Casey Collins** is the Lead Teaching Artist. She is a graduate of Elon University’s Music and Education programs. She has taught at Eastlawn, YMA’s sending school, for more than five years. She also performs professionally with a variety of music groups around Alamance County.

