Bridging Cultures through Music

VFTH

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WKU’s pre-college strings program is helping bridge the language barrier for students from all over the world attending Bowling Green High School.

Amy Bingham shows us how music is the universal language in this week’s View from the Hill.

Maryan Mohamed \ BGHS Sophomore, Somalia

Dr. Ching-Yi Lin \ WKU Associate Professor

Evan Patriatan \ WKU Music Education Major

Emerson Carrigan \ BGHS Freshman volunteer

Marliese Belt \ BGHS ESL Teacher

“This is one of the first times these students have picked up a violin or any type of instrument.”

Bridging Cultures through Music.

“They are from Mexico, Vietnam, Tanzania, they’re from everywhere”

Fourteen ESL (English as a second language students) at Bowling Green High are learning to play the violin.

“It’s been really fun I got to meet a lot of new people and it’s a new experience I didn’t do before.”

It’s all thanks to a twenty thousand dollar grant in 2017 from the WKU Sisterhood.

“I knew this would be a great project I just didn’t quite expect the level of gratification.

Dr. Ching Yi Lin says the inspiration for the program came from her own personal experience as an ESL student.

“I wanted to create an environment where the community, different people, different cultures could come together and learn from each other.”

Six of Dr. Lin’s college strings students at WKU are helping teach.

“This is my first experience teaching and I’ve already been doing it for a semester so in terms of experience in actually doing it I’m already pretty far ahead.”

There are also high school students volunteering to help.

“Whenever this opportunity was presented to me I thought it would be perfect for me because these are the two things I love the most, cultures and playing the violin.”

Teachers say the students are learning quickly and their progress transcends music.

“I can see a difference in their attitude and their confidence, whether or not their proficiency blossoms, their confidence about English has and that’s the biggest thing for them.”

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

For more information about how you can volunteer for or donate to this project you can contact Dr. Ching-Yi Lin at [strings@wku.edu](mailto:strings@wku.edu).

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