

GENEVIEVE DIDION K-8
A CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

***Mrs. Elett
Ricks-Chambers***

MRS. CHAMBERS' FAVORITE MUSIC QUOTES

“The arts are not a frill. The arts are a response to our individuality and our nature, and help to shape our identity. What is there than can transcend deep difference and stubborn divisions? The arts. They have a wonderful universality. Art has the potential to unify. It can speak in many languages without a translator. The arts do not discriminate. The arts can lift us up.”

-Former Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan



Mrs. Chambers has taught music to Genevieve Didion students since 1980, and hence her influence on our community spans generations. She grew up in New York, where a flourishing music curriculum instilled in her an appreciation for arts and education. Mrs. Chambers is an invaluable part of Didion and much revered among students, families and alumni.



What is your earliest musical memory?

Please allow me to share more than one...

My mom playing the piano and singing songs to me. Music is in my DNA, I am sure I responded to my mother's music before I was even born.

I vividly remember performing in my first piano recital, I think I was almost 4.

There were hundreds of people in the audience. I can still see the beautiful dress I wore with lace socks and patent leather shoes. My legs dangled from the piano bench because I was so small.

My piano teacher was Mrs. Elett Dixon. She was my mom's teacher and my mom named me after her.

I can name the location because there were many more recitals that followed, it was Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo, New York.

My first piece was my teacher's arrangement of the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. My teacher and I told the story and I played a theme on the piano for each of the characters and the action in the story.

Who is your biggest influence?

Again, while I certainly would say my parents and maternal grandparents. My music teachers influenced me as well.

First piano teacher: Mrs. Elett Dixon

Elementary School Music Teacher: Mrs. McGruder

Middle School Music Teacher and All- City Honor Choir Director: Mrs. Hill

High School Music Teacher: Mr. Ricca

College Piano Professor: Mr. Thomas Kerr

“It is in Apple’s DNA that technology alone is not enough – it’s technology married with liberal arts, married with the humanities, that yields us the results that make our heart sing.”

- Steve Jobs, in introducing the iPad2 in 2011



If you were stranded on an island, what book, music album, and instrument would you take with you?

Book: The Bible

Music Album: My Apple Music (No genre of music would be left out!)

Instrument: A grand piano

What do you love about your job?

What I love about my job is the fact that each and every work day I am blessed to come to work in a profession that I know I was born to be a part of. I love the treasure of the awesome opportunity that had been afforded to me to make a difference in the lives of the most priceless gifts in the world. The gift of my Didion children!

I believe many of them will remember their music experiences, along with our connections to the world around us and more importantly how much I loved them. It doesn't get any better than that.

What are your thoughts on cultivating an appreciation of arts and education in our children?

Several years ago a student brought a quote they cut out for me that said “Music Is Life.” I could not agree more.

My music exposure started early in life and as a result music is a part of the air I breathe. I cannot imagine life without the arts. I am so fortunate to have grown up in an era where the arts were truly valued. Let’s keep doing the same for our children.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our Didion families for your love and support of our school. Your understanding of the place for the arts in the lives of our children has been phenomenal and I am grateful.

*Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind,
flight to the imagination and life to everything."*

- Plato

