

Name: Licia Gambino

Grade/Subject: Music Teacher

Number of years working at CKS: This is my first year 2024-2025.

About me: I have a B.S. in Music Education from the University of Connecticut, and I've been teaching music for over forty years. My first music teaching position, at the Wallingford Elementary School, brought me to Vermont, and I have taught at numerous Vermont schools, as well as a Department of Defense School in Augsburg, Germany. I am also a contra dance caller and musician. I took a break from school music teaching while raising and homeschooling my family. During that time, I had the privilege of singing with the Trillium Hospice Chorus. That experience helped me understand the importance of gathering together in song. Currently, I lead a community chorus called the Shrewsbury Singers, and have started leading Family Music Gatherings based in Shrewsbury, my home town.

Music has been important to me for most of my life! When I was 6 years old I made some major life decisions. After my family purchased a stereo and I was surrounded by classical music on a daily basis, I declared I wanted to play the flute, piccolo, and harp!. I started playing the flute, my major instrument, in 8th grade after teaching myself the fingerings while holding up a bike pump marked with the finger holes. (A few months of this convinced my parents I was serious about playing the flute!) By my senior year of high school, I was giving flute lessons to younger students. And, during a First Grade "Show and Tell" sharing, my twin friends brought their guitar-playing aunt in to sing some songs for the class. They sang in *harmony* and my world opened up! I remember thinking, "I want to do *that!*". Fortunately, singing at school taught me how to "*do that!*". I'm grateful for these musical opportunities; music has brought so much joy to my life! My goal, as a music educator, is to provide these basic musical opportunities to all students.

Why CKS:

CKS is known for having a dedicated and supportive community of both staff and families. I'm finding that to be very true! The expectations of kindness, respect and community service help to support all of us to take chances and try things that may be out of our comfort zone. I enjoy sharing music with every class at CKS!

