



## Welcome to Beard Elementary – Music/STEM Program

Hello Families! My name is Ms. Margi and I am going to be your 4-year-old's Music/STEM teacher. This is my 13th year teaching and my 3rd year at Beard. I am Nationally Board Certified, have my Masters in Reading, and am ESL endorsement. I speak Gujarati and a little Hindi. I am married and have three children ages 8, 6, and 6. My favorite things to do are cook, read, travel, and try new restaurants!

STEM stands for **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, and **M**athematics. In my class, your child will be engaging with STEM through music, movement, and place-based learning. In this fast-changing world, the most important skill children need to be successful is curiosity - and that happens through wondering. Wonder comes naturally at this age - just think about how much they enjoy exploring!

This year, I will tap into that curiosity through outdoor, field-based learning. I am taking part in a project called [Learning in Places](#) (scan the QR code for more information), is designed to expand your child's understanding of nature-culture relations – that is, relations between human worlds and the natural worlds – towards just, sustainable, and culturally thriving forms of life by cultivating ethical decision-making, communal adaptations, and leadership.

We will be going on lots of walks outside, where I'll be encouraging students to make observations and ask questions that are meaningful to them. We'll use students' own wondering to plan and conduct investigations.

I'd love for you to be a part of our learning. Throughout the year, I'll send home activities that are designed to be used right outside your door. The rich practices, cultures, and knowledge of our communities that you bring is so valuable. The family activities will come home as handouts or a Google Form on Seesaw (you choose what works best for you). I understand sometimes your circumstances or schedule may not make it possible to complete these. Students will not be penalized if these are not completed. I simply hope you will consider taking part when you can so we can learn from you.

I look forward to working with your family. This is going to be an amazing year!

### Ways to stay in touch:

**Seesaw** – This is our main form of communication. Please message me if you have any questions

Email – [mbhansali@cps.edu](mailto:mbhansali@cps.edu)

