

# Parenting and teaching simultaneously can lead to burnt offerings

*Catherine Whitnall*

Beth Wilson is naturally creative, but she's had to dial it up to 11 to not only support her children's Learning@Home, but also teach her own students.

"It's a whole new way of navigating things," said the Mariposa Elementary School music teacher and mother of four. "When you're trying to balance the teacher you are at work with the parent you are at home. . . some days they burn lunch and the fire alarm goes off. But you just keep calm and carry on."

In some ways, she's in a bit better position than other colleagues with school-aged children.

Her two youngest attend Heritage Christian School where students began online lessons the first week after the March break.

"By the time (the province) extended the closure, the girls were already into the swing of things."

Her eldest two children are in high school and already using Google Classroom.

"I'm lucky they're older, but it's a lot to put on them too because it's always Mommy, just has one more thing to do'," said Wilson.

Shifting into new ways of instructing is a little more complicated for Wilson. Not only is music considered enrichment not curriculum, she also has 320 students, not just one class. Wilson also has to be aware of what students can access at home.

Granted, Wilson has no problem with DIY.

"Everybody has water glasses and kitchen pots at home."

Wilson recently purchased the Accapella App which enables her to clone herself for lessons. She simply records videos in advance then pulls them together using the app.

"Ten years ago, when I started developing special programs, there's no way I could have kept going like this. I just love how technology is having a positive impact," said Wilson. "And I love how these kids are embracing it too."

One assignment asked students to create a "soundtrack" of their life and illustrate an accompanying album cover.

"There was so much thought and reflection put into it; so personal and deep," said Wilson.

In another one, students are transforming a rhyming book into a rap song using

musical beatbox game and website, Incredibox, then sending the finished product to primary school mates.

“I think it’s a great way to stay connected,” said Wilson.