

# ManiAAC Music Teacher

Elementary school music teacher uses his moves to entertain thousands of fans

Written by Jaime Handy

Corey Mitchell, a veteran music teacher at Parkway Elementary School, is a larger than life figure and it's not because he towers over all the students on his campus. On Sept. 1, he became a local celebrity when he discovered he was the newest member of the Mavs ManiAACs, the all-male, hip-hop dance team for the Dallas Mavericks.

Every day, he teaches music to students from kindergarten to fourth grade, but once the school is empty and the buses are gone, he transforms into an ambassador for the NBA team, cheering the Mavs to victory and serving in the community.

"I've found that my purpose in life is to help others, love on people and make them smile," Mitchell said. "I get to do that in our school every day, so when the opportunity came to do it in a bigger venue, I couldn't pass it up."

He grew up around music with his family in Louisiana, so joining the dance group seemed like a logical fit for Mitchell. His fun-loving, charismatic personality and mission to make people smile helps him entertain cheering crowds and it's not much different than being in a classroom.

"Once I got over the nerves, it's been a lot of fun," Mitchell said. "Being a dancer, music teacher and a drummer my whole life, rhythm is something that comes naturally to me."

Although his schedule can get busy during the season, Mitchell's priority is always the impact that he makes on the students in his classroom. His commitment hasn't gone unnoticed to other teachers and staff in the building.

"Passion is the one word I think of when describing Mr. Mitchell," Parkway principal Kristina Turner said. "Mr. Mitchell is all about music instruction, the arts and providing another outlet for our students. His creativity is coming across in the classroom as well as on the court."

The students in his classroom have cheered him on all season long, asking him about his interactions with the players and what it's like to dance in front of so many people. Mitchell says it's been a great way for him to get closer to the kids.

"They went through the audition process with me and it was encouraging for me," Mitchell said. "I hope I can use this experience to inspire them to chase any dreams they have with everything they've got. And if in the end, you don't reach your goal, you know that you gave it your best."



Mitchell spends his day making students smile in his classroom (above), but you can find him cheering on the Dallas Mavericks as a member of the Mavs ManiAACs in his spare time.

