

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Southern Boone County R-1 Schools

Program Evaluated: Performance Arts

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and Justin Nabors

Program Goals:

Primary

Students in the Primary School are learning the following:

- Elements of Music including Rhythm, Tempo, Pitch, and Dynamics.
- Genres of Music including Tribal Drums, Baroque, Classical, Traditional Asian, Jugband, Bluegrass, Country, Blues, Soul, Rock 'n' Roll, and Holiday Music.
- Making music with voices and various instruments including Brass, Woodwind, Strings, Percussion, and Homemade Instruments.
- Rehearsing and performing for grade-level concerts.
- Notation including whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes.
- Famous composers/musicians from various genres.

Elementary

The elementary music program's goals are:

- To expose students to a wide variety of music they would not encounter on their own - this includes the historical context of the music, bios of major composers, music vocabulary, and analysis of stylistic characteristics of various genres.
- To teach music skills to prepare them for continuing their music education either on their own, through private instruction, or through school programs like band and choir. This includes music literacy of standard notation rhythms and note reading, music vocabulary, and skills in listening to and evaluating music compositions and performance.
- To teach students practical instrument playing skills on drums, other rhythm instruments, and the Recorder. Students learn how to play and hold parts, instrument technique, reading music and playing instruments, playing solo and

being part of an ensemble. This includes practical application of concepts like tempo, dynamics, tone color, articulation, and listening while performing.

Middle School/High School

- Students will develop the technical and intellectual skills necessary to communicate concepts using a variety of media.
- Students will develop the ability to critically analyze and interpret works of art in a variety of media.
- Students will have the ability to work cooperatively, effectively and creatively with peers.

What data/evaluation criteria illustrates the effectiveness of this area?

Because Visual and Practical Arts do not have standardized tests, we have created our own assessments aligned with MO state standards and grade level expectations provide data that we can use to form effective instructional methods.

Primary

The effectiveness of the Primary School Music Program is demonstrated through grade-level performances throughout the school year. Feedback from parents and classroom teachers is overwhelmingly positive. Children are demonstrating a keen interest in music by singing at home and making their own musical instruments in their freetime.

Observers within the Music Room will notice children singing and playing instruments with enthusiasm and skill. By devoting a portion of every class period to listening to music and watching videos of live performances, students are gaining an appreciation for music that will stay with them when they move on to the Elementary School and beyond.

Elementary

The two main examples determining the effectiveness of the elementary school music program outside of the classroom are the success of the elementary grade level music concerts and the increase in students starting 6th grade band. I have received lots of positive feedback from parents about the quality of the elementary grade level concerts and we generally have a packed house.

Observers inside the classroom would see us playing drums together, listening to famous pieces of music, learning about different composers, exploring different kinds of

bands and ensembles, learning about the history of music from around the world, and writing rhythm compositions. These skills and concepts are taught and reinforced from grade 3 through grade 5.

Mr. Marjamaa and Mr. Nabors do a great job recruiting students for 6th grade band and choir. We do a combined music recruitment assembly at the elementary for 5th graders every spring. Last year Mr. Marjamaa also did an in-service during school to evaluate which instrument a student might be more suited for, the kids really enjoyed it. A limiting factor for student band recruitment is middle school scheduling conflicts that make it difficult for some students to join band or choir even if the desire is there.

Middle School/High School

Southern Boone graduates who specialize in the music program have gained admittance to higher education institutions like the Berkley School of Music and the Manhattan School of Dance. Others go on to pursue careers in Music Education, Light and Sound Engineering, and Cosmetology.

Students are continuing to compete at the highest levels in district and state activities like all-state choir, all-district band, and district/state level music contests. A growing number of the music program's students are taking private lessons, which is very helpful to being competitive within our district.

Band is advancing in both participants and successes. The HS Marching Band performed in a Chicago Thanksgiving Day Parade during the 2018-2019 school year. The marching band is consistently performing at the top of their class in marching festivals, receiving 1st and 2nd place honors.

Choir is growing as well and we are preparing to travel with the band in 2021 to the nationally televised event at the Thanksgiving Day Parade in Chicago. We believe that by combining to two ensembles, we can offer bigger and better opportunities and experiences for our students.

Enrollment and involvement in music are up. Enrollments in band and jazz band are higher than last year. Marching Band is now at 70 students. Enrollments in Chamber Choir this year went from 30-25. Recruiting within the school will return us to 30 at semester. Theater Tech has added a third section, with total enrollment around 60 students. Musical Theatre is up in enrollment this year.

What has changed since the last program evaluation?

Primary

Since the last program evaluation, the Primary School Music Program has changed significantly. The Music room moved to a much smaller space due to adding a ninth first-grade class. A new teacher, Mr. Naughton, has taken the program in new directions with his overall goal of getting students to fall in love with music. This is achieved through hands-on music making, exposure to various styles of music, and an emphasis on experiencing the joy of music in various ways.

Elementary

Since the last program evaluation, I have been able to purchase more instruments to increase student engagement and provide more variety to our classroom music making. I have been able to purchase 5 Cajons (a box shaped percussion instrument), Guiros, shakers, bongos, and more tubano drums. Currently I have almost enough drums so every student has something to play that they are excited about. I have also been able to purchase more music smartboard games and instructional materials, as well as technology for a music listening station. With our growing student population, the district and PTA have been able to purchase 4 more risers for public performances.

Middle School

Middle School Music (52 Students):

The middle school purchased a new curriculum for the guitar classes that has been really successful. Student learning and engagement have increased a great deal during the first quarter of implementation and are looking to continue that trend throughout the year. I hope to have students from these classes perform during assemblies and with the choir during the year.

Middle School Choir (60 Students):

Middle School Choir has changed in the past couple of years with the scheduling challenges in the Middle School. Students are now meeting every other day for the entire year. This allows us to complete a musical each fall and attend the 6th grade honor choir along with participating in Central Methodists music contest in the spring. These events help to drive our educational goals of producing competent musicians and performers along with preparing our students for the program at the High School.

Middle School Band (80 Students)

Middle School band continues to be a great opportunity for students to learn instrumental music. 6th Grade band works on the basics of sound production, music reading and performing. 7th and 8th grade bands pursue greater refinement as well as more performance opportunities. In the spring of 2019, the 7th and 8th grade bands participated and earned excellent ratings in music festivals at Central Methodist University and in Eureka, MO. In the Fall of 2019 the middle school bands performed in the Pumpkin Fest Parade. We continue to look for more opportunities for the middle school level to show off their talents. On the curriculum side, all grade levels are advancing through their classroom materials at a faster pace than 5-10 years ago.

High School

High School Choir (40 Students)

The Chamber Choir has grown this year and will hopefully see a continuation of this growth over the next few years. Chamber Choir is still running a full schedule of public performances, including KOMU, Veteran's Day, Fall Fest, District and State Competitions. Recently, we had two students make All-District Choir and one student recognized as an alternate in All-State Choir. In the last 10 years, we have consistently had a large number of soloists and small ensembles in state competition, which is the highest available level. The Chamber Choir also plans to travel as a music department with the Band to New York in May of 2021.

Theatrical Arts (21 Students)

2019-2020 is the first year for this class. Originally intended to be part of the Art program at the high school, enrollment numbers made it necessary to move this class over to Mr. Nabors duty roster. Students have been using project based learning to develop skills encompassing painting, hair, and makeup as they pertain to theatre.

High School Band (70 Students)

The High School Band continues to grow, doubling the amount of students we had 10-15 years ago. The band also continues to have success in contests and festivals. Yearly events include performances at 4-5 Football Games, Homecoming, Veteran's Day, 3-4 Marching Festivals, District and State Competitions. In 2019 Kimberly Lybrand earned the position of Principal Flutist of the All-State Orchestra. Next month, she and another student have earned the opportunity to audition again after making it into the North East Missouri District Band. In the Fall the Band earned 3 first places in various

events. The Band plans to travel as a music department with the Choir to New York in May of 2021.

What next steps would better serve our students?

Primary- In order for the Primary School Music Program to continue to improve, I would like to give the students more opportunities to play instruments. A purchase of two-dozen ukuleles at approximately \$50 per instrument would be a sound investment. Also, when new building construction is complete for next school year, a return to the real music room (twice as large as our current space) will give students more opportunities to incorporate movement into their rehearsals and lessons.

Elementary - There are several things that would enhance the elementary music program.

- A guitar lab of 25 acoustic guitars (approx. \$3750) would give students a chance to learn an instrument that they are super excited about. We would learn guitar technique, play both rhythm and lead guitar, play the guitar in class with drums and other rhythm instruments, and be able to create guitar compositions.
- A portable keyboard lab (24 keyboards, stands, headphones approx. \$3500) would enable students to learn piano technique, applied note and rhythm reading, and enable students to create and record their own music compositions.
- An enhanced PA system -more powerful PA head, better speakers approximately \$750 would give us a front of house system and a system of monitors for the performers. This would provide better sound for our music concerts, talent show, and assemblies. We have a PA system now that is just barely adequate, as we grow so will our sound reinforcement needs.

Middle School

Middle School Band:

There is always a need for financial support, especially in a growing program. Listed below are areas that would help middle school band.

- Install lockable cabinets outside the band room to protect school and personal investments outside of class hours.
- Replace and increase the tubas/bari sax/bass clarinets/french horns we have available to students.
- Increase double reeds such as oboes and bassoons
- Replace sound system in the middle school band room, we currently have partially working computer speaks to project sound through the room
- Replace and increase music stands and stand carts

High School

There is always a need for financial support in our growing program. Listed below are areas that would help high school band.

- We have outgrown our classroom and need an appropriate space to rehearse. Here is a [panoramic photo](#) of our first hour class. Other than having a tight space, what does this do to learning? a) Students can not be positioned in the appropriate areas to allow for best practice. b) The sound is dangerously loud and has the potential for hearing loss for both staff and students. c) We cannot properly distinguish levels of correct vs. incorrect practice with the volume of sound. d) Larger instruments are limited in their ability to be played properly, such as percussion and trombones. e) Further growth of the program will exacerbate these issues further.
- This year we increased the staffing 1st hour to two certified staff members. Mr. Nabors, our choir teacher, has been a great asset to the band program, but we both agree that having a second instrumental music expert in the school is a necessary step for the instrumental music program. At 65 students, Mr. Marjamaa's expertise in instrumental music can only be spread so far.
- The high school band has the same issues as middle school in replacing and increasing the instruments and equipment.
- As the population increases, communication with the students outside via a portable PA system will be necessary.
- It would be helpful to have proper instrumental music seating. Chairs costs vary on quality. 1-49 chairs are \$90 a chair, at 50 chairs the cost decreases to \$71 a chair.