

# UPPER ST. CLAIR SCHOOL DISTRICT

## FAST TRACK CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATION FOR 2018-2019



**Name:** Amy Pfender, John Seybert

**Level:** K-12

**Area:** Performing Arts

**Date:** November 2020

### Curriculum Recommendation

Complete a multi-year comprehensive evaluation of the current K-12 music program in order to identify current strengths and recommendations for adjustments to curriculum, instruction, programming, and delivery models.

### Reason(s) for Recommendation

### Implementation Steps

### Cost

### Administrative Reaction

1. The District has continued to review methods to enhance our current offerings in the Performing Arts. Though many studies and adjustments have been completed through the years, a level of concern over instrumental programming continues to exist. This recommendation will provide an opportunity to complete a program review of the USC School District Performing Arts Program.

2. Previous survey data from parents of students participating in instrumental music programming (list date of survey) indicate dissatisfaction with choices that need to be made related to scheduling of pull-out instrumental lessons that occur during the school day. Students in grades 4, 5, and 6, students must select between one elective arts course offering or small group instrumental lesson so as not to miss core academic learning.

3. District music ensemble offerings at the elementary and middle school levels occur outside of the school day in order to preserve learning opportunities in other academic areas. This causes some participation difficulties due to student transportation needs.

1. Administrative Approval
2. Develop two sets of committees:
  - a. District level which includes district administrators, counselors, teachers, curriculum leaders/department chairs and students.
  - b. Building level to include principals, counselors and teachers.
3. Employing the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) Framework for Effective Ensembles, we will evaluate existing curriculum and programs to identify current needs and key areas to be addressed.
4. Identify specific curriculum and programs for review and analysis.
5. Create a timeline for program review and essential components of effective curriculum and programming.
6. Organize a community input group to provide feedback on Steps #3 through #5

To include purchase of programs/curriculum, workshop rate for teacher work during the 21-22 SY, and summer of 22-23 SY, and substitute teacher costs

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## FAST TRACK CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2020-2021



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4. In order to accommodate instrumental lessons in grades 7 and 8, students must miss core academic classes on a rotating basis. This is done in order to limit the impact of missed learning opportunities in any one core academic class.

5. Students that move into the District from other successful programs throughout the country or regional area are accustomed to opportunities for music performance within the school day. Based on our research, most of these talented students with diverse experiences do not participate in our music program because they either do not want to miss other academic classes or they do not have the requisite transportation.

6. In addition to the expected attrition between Middle School and High School as indicated in the research literature, the aforementioned schedule concerns (Grades 4-8) as well as the lack of Honors course offerings in the Performing Arts at the High School (since a majority of the students in the program insist in taking only honors/AP-level coursework for their college application) results in declining enrollments in the High School performing ensembles.

7. Based on findings, we will develop and implement more coordinated music programming from a K-12 perspective.

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**Administrative  
Reaction**

6. Longitudinal data indicates a drop of in participation in instrumental music programming between middle school and high school. Though there are various reasons for this decline, one important is honors level. We are .attempting to resolve that currently with two recent recommendations..

7. This recommendation provides an opportunity to examine these concerns and advance our current music course opportunities for all students.