

DMPS MUSIC NOTES



Des Moines Public Schools Music Newsletter

January 2016

Letter From the Coordinator

Happy New Year!

As I look at the first half of the school year, I am inspired by all the amazing things I saw throughout the district and I look forward to us taking this next semester to new heights!

Moving forward my focus will be on continuing to build capacity for elementary general music teachers to implement and develop SRG, work with elementary band and orchestra teachers on how we will move forward with SRG, develop a more consistent inventory process, and work to help improve student access to yearlong vocal music in the middle schools.

Sincerely,
Ryan Rowley

“It is cruel, you know, that music should be so beautiful. It has the beauty of loneliness of pain: of strength and freedom. The beauty of disappointment and never-satisfied love. The cruel beauty of nature and everlasting beauty of monotony.”

-Benjamin Britten



Madison Elementary Band Student

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Perkins Elementary Concert

All-City Middle School Music Festival and Art Exhibit

The All-City Music Festival and Art Exhibit is on it's way... Quickly. This event embodies the best of what our district is able to accomplish. The spirit of cooperation for the betterment of all students transcends that of competition and brings us together to create art.

Our continuing partnership with Marjorie Spevak is helping us to continue to give this great opportunity for our upper middle school students. Through her generous financial gift we are able to rent facilities, purchase music, and pay for our conductors each year.

By now, teachers should have their music, be selecting students, and be getting it out for them to practice. This is an essential piece of making the festival a success. By having students prepared, we will again have another successful year.

SRG Revision and Development

Now in year 3 of implementation, we will need to continue our work to improve our current Standards Referenced Grading system and look at how and when it should be implemented for our Elementary Band and Orchestra programs. This process will require teams to be pulled during the day to help maintain and update our rigorous standards. In order for us to be successful, we will need a diverse group of teachers from each level, feeder, and subject area. While revision and development has already begun for elementary general music, we will need to have groups established in January for secondary band, choir, and orchestra.

On the Docket

Inventory and Repair

For the last four years, costs for instrument repair have grown as our need for them has grown. This has put us in a place where we are unable to repair instruments that could still have many years of use left. In order to alleviate this, we are starting to look at options for instrument repair.

One requirement is for us to continue to build funding a better process for instrument inventory. Our district finance officers have been looking into using the district library program to account for instruments for insurance and tracking purposes. By trying this, we hope to better be able to demonstrate need for more instruments and better repair options.

As we move forward, we hope to be able to find ways to continue to grow our inventory by both purchasing and preventative maintenance of instruments. With all options on the table, we will continue to move forward in giving opportunities to all students who want to be involved with instrumental music in Des Moines.



All-City Music Festival

Professional Development Committee

I would like to thank the many volunteers for their desire to be on the Professional Development Committee. This year, we welcome the following:

- William Beyer
- Kelly Daza
- Cathy Kearney
- Sarah Smith

Their job will be to help approve PD requests for Elementary Instrumental Music instructors.

Instrument Purchasing Committee

As our goal is to ensure that students have access to all programming, the Instrument Purchasing Committee will be tasked with looking at brands that are both economical and durable for student use. This volunteer group will be tasked with using their expertise to help us make future instrument procurements.

Requests for this committee will be accepted at the next secondary PLC.



Elementary Honor Choir

Coordinator Contact

For more information regarding this issue, please see our website: <http://performingarts.dmschools.org>
2323 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50312
ryan.rowley@dmschools.org
515.242.7609

February Events

- 1-State Show Choir Festival
- 4-ICDA Honor Choir
- 4-Ruby Van Meter Winter Concert
- 4-Perkins 3-5 Music Concert
- 5-6-ISU Honor Band
- 6-Jack Oats Jazz Festival
- 8-State Jazz Choir Festival
- 8-North Sweetheart Show
- 9-Drake Honor Jazz
- 9-West Side Percussion Concert
- 11-SCIBA Middle School Solo/Ensemble
- 11-Carver 1st Grade Concert
- 11-Cattell K-2 Concert
- 13-SCIBA Middle School Large Group
- 13-South East Polk Jazz Festival
- 13-DMPS Piano Festival
- 15-Roosevelt Mid-Winter Music Department Concert
- 16-Jefferson Kindergarten and 5th Grade Music Programs
- 16-Monroe 2nd Grade Concert
- 18-Jackson K-1 and 2-3 Concerts
- 18-Phillips Kindergarten and 1st Grade Concerts
- 19-20-Indianola Jazz Encounter
- 19-Tallcorn Jazz Festival
- 20-Perry Band Olympics
- 22-Roosevelt Solo/Ensemble Festival
- 23-All-City Middle School Jazz Festival
- 25-South Side Festival of Voices
- 25-North High School Orchestra Chamber Concert
- 26-Lovejoy 2nd and 3rd Grade Concerts
- 27-Jim Coffin Jazz Festival
- 27-Callanan Orchestra Recital
- 28-North Gospel Choir at Plymouth Church
- 29-Lincoln Festival of Music