

Date: June, 2015

To: Tavish MacLean
Geoff Doy
Dan Popp
Marci Busby
Carolyn Simpson

Cc: Joel Aune, Jeff Hogan, Ruth Moen and Dan Schlotfeldt

From: Carol Reitz, SVSD Music Coalition

Subject: SVSD 5th Annual Report on Music Education

Thank you for taking the time to review our fifth annual report on Music Education K-12 in the SVSD. Our Music Coalition, formed four years ago, has continued to work closely with all of the music teachers in our district to provide the data for this report. Our goal is for decision makers to view the music coalition as a respected resource for making informed decisions as it relates to music education in our district.

Our report is much shorter this year, as our primary goal is to develop a strategic plan for the next 5-10 years as our music programs continue to grow. The plan would involve all stakeholders: administration, music teachers, parents and community and students. I'm working with Jeff Hogan to develop a timeline and plan for accomplishing this project.

Thank you to John Belcher and Joel Aune for approval of a much needed part-time administrative assistant for the MSHS Band/Choir directors for the 2015-16 school year. Also, a full-time band FTE has been approved for MSHS in 2016-17. These changes are an acknowledgement of the growth and need for investment in our music programs, which is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Carol Reitz
SVSD Music Coalition/MSHS Band Boosters President
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I love that choir is so accepting and that we are a family. Sydney H., Junior

If I hadn't joined choir my freshman year, I don't know where I'd be. These people are my family and I'd be lost without them. Madeline W., Junior

I like how we are responsible for ourselves and can be proud of our creations. Dee S., Senior, Music Collaboration and Creativity

I like that we are able to have HANDS ON CREATIVITY! I learn best being creative. Jacob B., Junior, Music Collaboration and Creativity

The biggest benefit I've gotten from band is a sense of belonging and comfort within the band community. Everyone here wants you to be here, and immediately welcomes you into the group. Nicole W., Senior

Purpose	The purpose of the annual report is to keep administration and school board informed of the current status of music programs in our school district.
SVSD Music Coalition	A citizen based advocacy group focused on promoting music education in the SVSD. Music teachers across the district serve as partners in creating a positive environment for maintaining and building music programs for students K-12.
Mission	To ensure equal access to music education K-12 in the Snoqualmie Valley School District
Goal	For decision makers to see the coalition as a valuable resource when making decisions impacting music students
Principles	The coalition is built on the following principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coalition is student centered—focused on the impact of any decision on the students. • The focus is on music education as a unified district-wide effort – not focused on individual schools, specific programs or music directors. • The coalition is a community based organization committed to creating long-term collaborative relationships with the key decision makers.
Focus of this report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommendations for creating a 5-10 year strategic plan for music education district wide. 2. Participation rates in music K-12 3. Attrition rate from middle school to high school music.
Resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Facebook page SVSD Music Coalition used to publicize events, educate, promote resources, and communicate actions as needed 2. The coalition serves as a resource for parents, teachers and other coalitions around the state and region 3. Music Advocacy: From Survival to Vision, by John Benham 4. Washington Music Educators Association (WMEA), www.WMEA.org

Band is a place I get to leave all other academics behind and work with others to make beautiful, emotional music and be with fellow nerds. Frank W., Senior

Band makes you think outside of the box and teaches you to be a more creative individual. Jered B., Sophomore

Chicks dig guys who can sing—especially tenors. Fletcher V., Junior

Recommendations

Choir is a different kind of class. You aren't sitting at a desk, bored. You are standing, and you are supposed to make beautiful sounds. It also helps with public speaking and being in front of people. Ryleigh P., Freshman

There have been notable successes in our music program – most recently, the Mount Si HS Jazz Band qualifying for the Essentially Ellington National Jazz band competition for the second year in a row. An honor extended to only 15 bands nationally each year.

It would be easy to extrapolate to say that things are going very well in music education in our district. We are doing well with the current available resources. There is also a tremendous amount of pressure on the booster groups at the middle and high school level to raise needed funds to support the choir and band programs.

Benchmarking programs at a national level and a quick survey of nearby schools and districts would highlight some deficits in our programming for music education.

1. There has never been an orchestra program offered
2. There is currently one extra-curricular elementary choir program; none at the other 4 elementary schools
3. There was no beginning band offered at Fall City Elementary; late minute hiring attempt
4. Beginning band is an extra-curricular offering at the 5 elementary schools – is this the best option?

The growth of the band and choir programs at the middle and high school programs will require greater resources – FTE, equipment, and facility. With the remodel taking place, having a long term vision for music education will help with planning for future space and resource needs.

Strategic Plan

There is a need for a 5-10 year vision and plan for music education. The plan will allow for a smooth systemic process that will make the best use of limited resources. Not any one building principal can address the issues above; nor does each principal always understand the impact to their students and students up and down the chain when decisions are made affecting music programs.

How?

1. Assess the current state – budgets, student participation rate and FTE
2. Create the desired future state
3. Identify any current/future barriers to students participating in music programs
4. Create a plan for addressing the barriers and achieving the vision for the district.

Who would be involved?

1. Music teachers
2. Administrators: principals, school board, staff
3. Parents/students/community

Band is without a doubt, my favorite class of the day. It's helped me find my place in the high school and without it, I never would have discovered my greatest passion and future occupation. Cole V., Junior

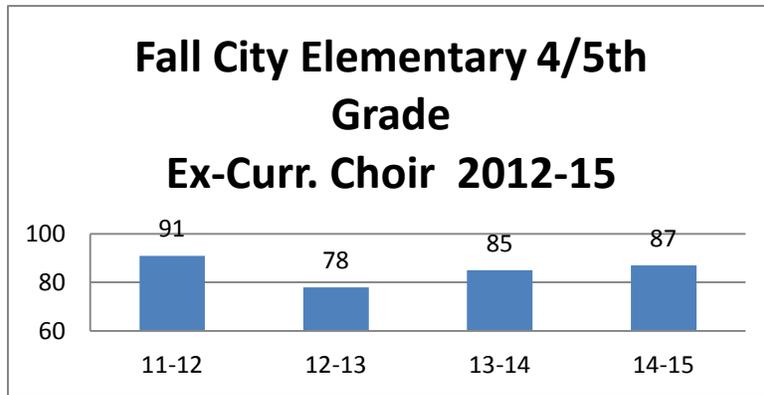
Choir is a great way to start the day and your family will complain less when you sing in the shower. Amber C., Freshman

Choir is a time when you can just have fun and not be worried about anything else. It is like free therapy during school, and you do not have to lie down on a couch. Stena P., Senior

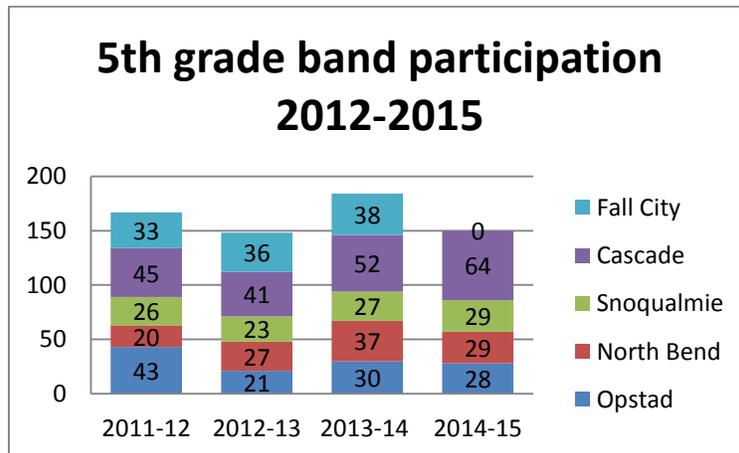
Key data from current music programs in the district.

Elementary Music

There is an concern about the contact time being reduced at the elementary schools experience tremendous growth: Fall City, Snoqualmie and Cascade View. We need to work with Dan Schlotfeldt to discuss the situation.



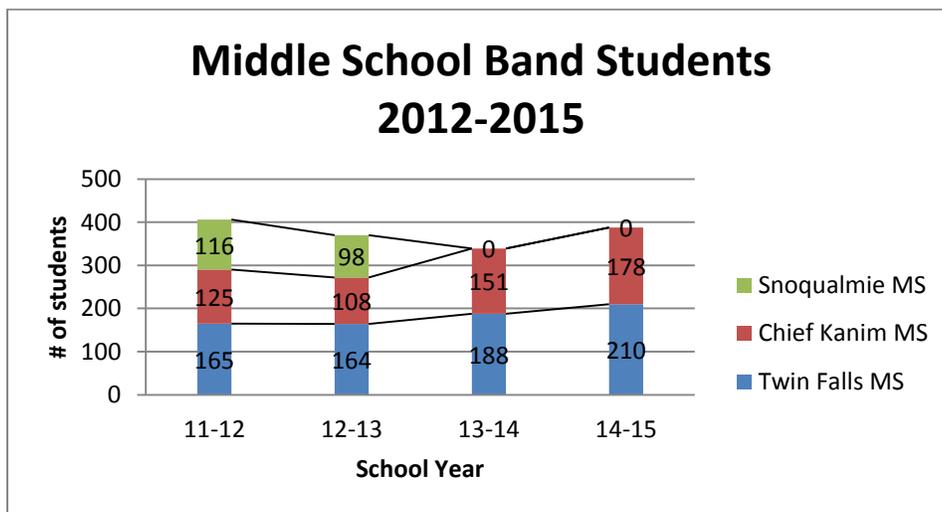
The current choir director/music teacher at FCE has taken maternity leave and will not be returning. There is no choral opportunity for students at the other four elementary schools.



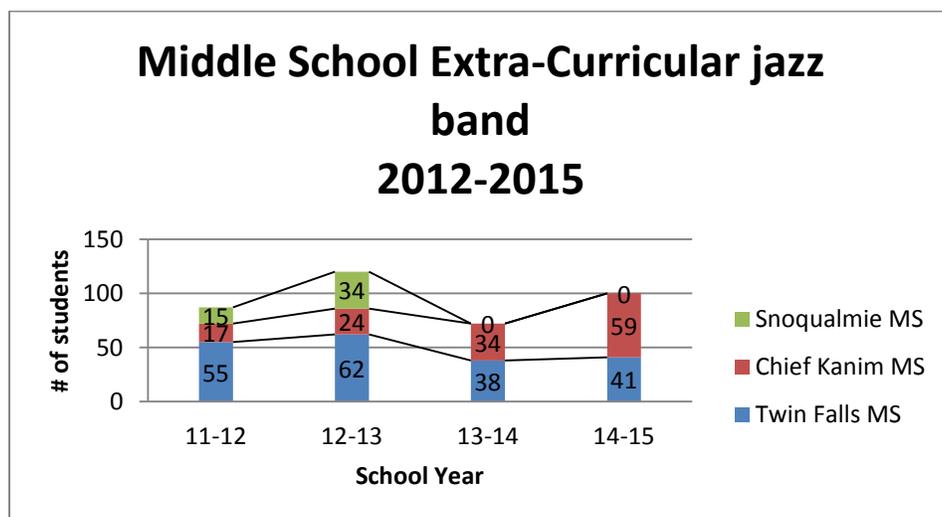
The Fall City Band director position was vacant, so no 5th grade band was offered this year.

I just look forward to coming to class every day no matter what we do because I love everything about choir. I also really like having it as my first period because if I start my day with music, I know that I'm starting my day right. Jessica C., Freshman

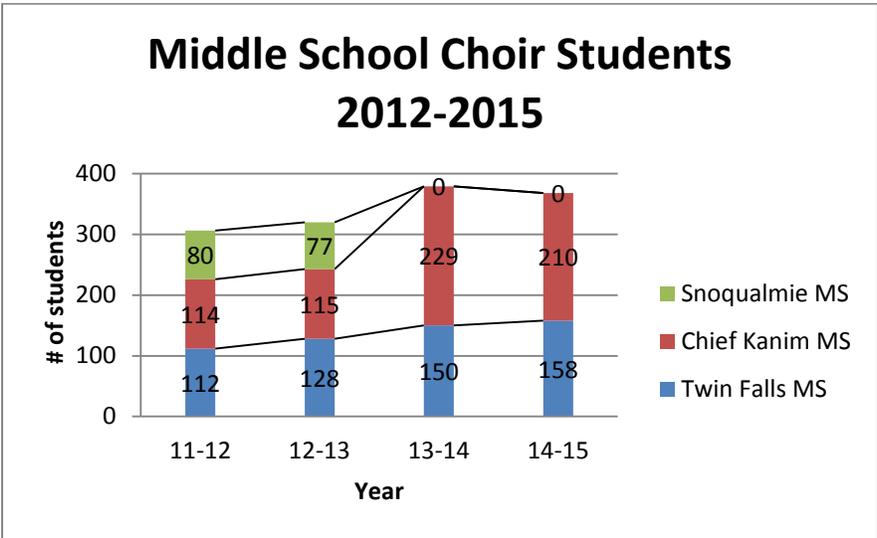
Middle School Music



After experiencing a drop in band participation, the trend is definitely on the rise for both band and extra-curricular jazz band. There is a strong positive correlation between the increasing middle school and high over the last two years.



I like band because of the tremendously instilled pride that is found within the program. Jake C., Senior



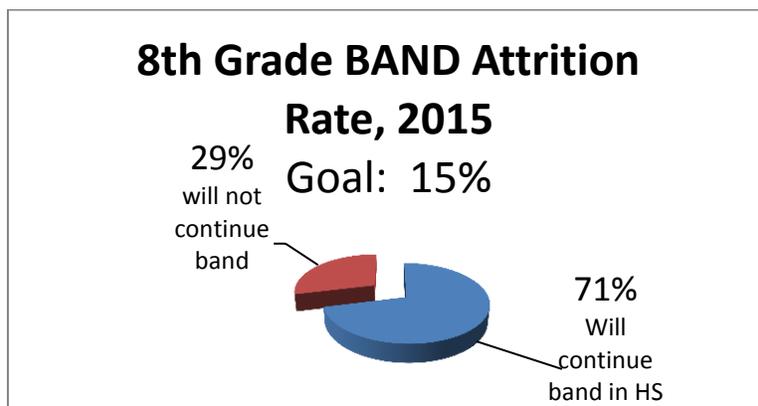
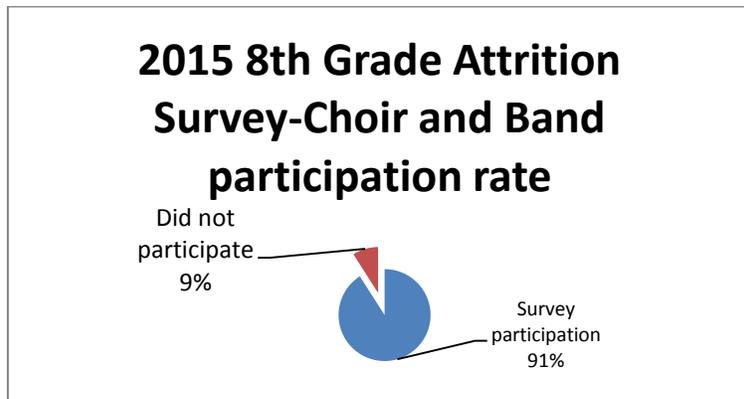
Chief Kanim has the benefit of at least one elementary school feeder program, and the last two years have had a full-time choir director on staff. The Twin Falls choir director taught all the choirs for the first time this year. Last year, the Twin Falls choirs were split between the choir and band director.

I smile more in choir than in every other class combined, because everybody there wants to be there. It's a really positive environment. My favorite thing is the sense of contributing to the group to create something cool and complex and beautiful.
 Abigail B., Junior

Choir is a place to let go of the stress from everyday life and regular class work. It's a different kind of work; it's challenging, but fun and expressive. Tyler S., Senior

Attrition rate between 8th and 9th grade band/choir

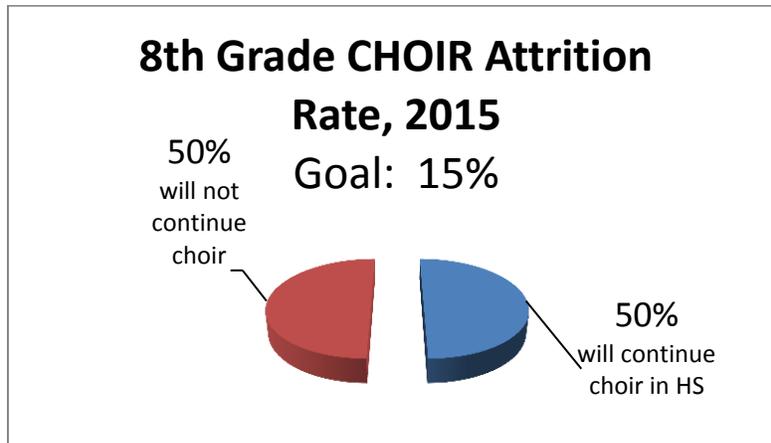
We continue to monitor the attrition rate for music students as they move from middle to high school. The benchmark attrition rate is 15% - which we are moving towards, but work is still needed to close the gap. This may mean removing barriers for students wanting to do music in high school, continuing communication with parents and students about the benefits of participating in music through high school.



Top 3 reasons for NOT continuing band in High School

1. Other electives sound more interesting (24%)
2. No room in my schedule (15%)
3. Don't like band (11%)

2015 band attrition rate: 29%
2014 band attrition rate: 30%
2013 band attrition rate: 62%



Top 3 reasons for NOT continuing choir in High School

1. Other electives sound more interesting (22%)
2. No room in my schedule (15%)
3. Don't like choir (13%)

2015 choir attrition rate-50%
 2014 choir attrition rate-48%
 2013 choir attrition rate-72%

Going into high school, you have to make decisions about what group you should go into and who you choose to be with is important, because, they affect your life in high school, and the band kids are the best kids in the school. Melissa H., Junior

Being in choir in high school makes entering high school freshman year a little less lonely and you have the option to connect with upper classmen, which is very helpful throughout the year. Erika K., Freshman

Mount Si HS Music Programs

Along with the traditional band and choir classes offered, there are two new ones added to the curriculum this year.

1. Music Collaboration and Creativity: The class is geared towards students who want to create their own music outside of the band and choir setting. They create their own music through replicating and arranging through collaboration with their peers. Students form small groups of 4-6 and work independently to create their song of choice. The teacher serves as facilitator, questioning, guiding and providing feedback.

It has been a very popular class with the maximum enrollment for both semesters. Students' reactions have been very positive:

I love how the structure of the class allows such a wide span of people. There are people who know almost everything about music, and there are people who have never touched an instrument before. This class allows people to make music and have fun. I love how the students teach each other and how you get out what you put in. Jordan P., Senior

Gaining confidence in making music in front of people, performing and sharing ideas/opinions in front of people. Bella E., Sophomore

Students should sign up for the class because it is super fun and you can gain all kinds of social experiences that will later help you in life. Madigan R., Sophomore

While the focus is music, students are learning about working in effective teams. They give each other feedback, and learn how to support each other based whatever the level of musical and social skills they bring to the group. These are much needed skills to be effective and productive citizens in the workplace. They enjoy the freedom and are engaged in the hands on learning process. For many, it's a great stress relief and the most enjoyable part of their day.

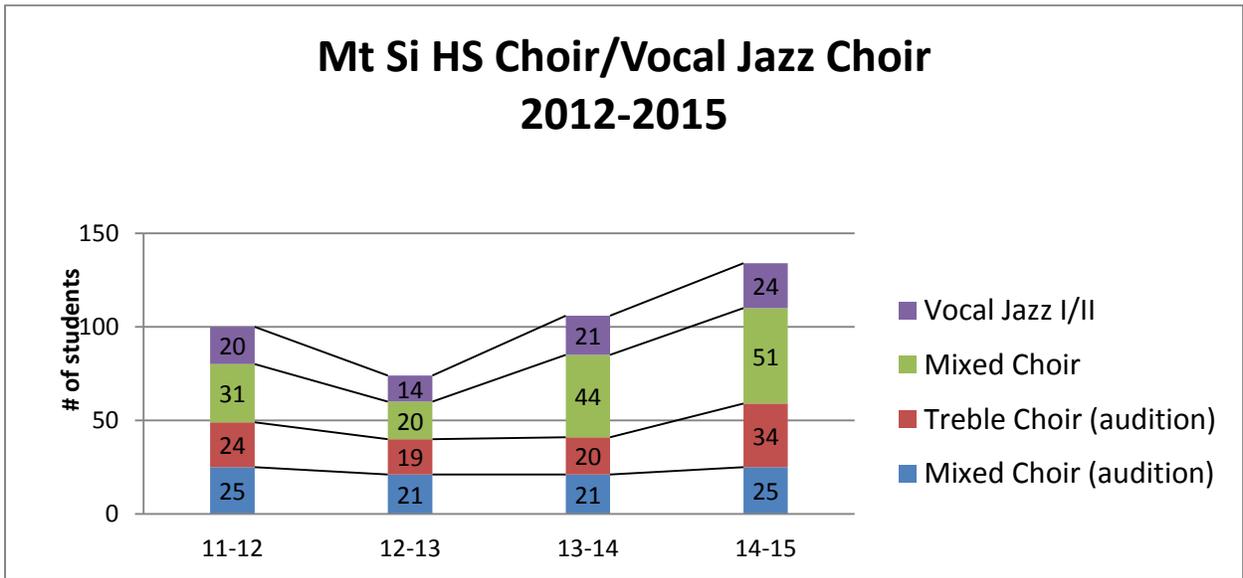
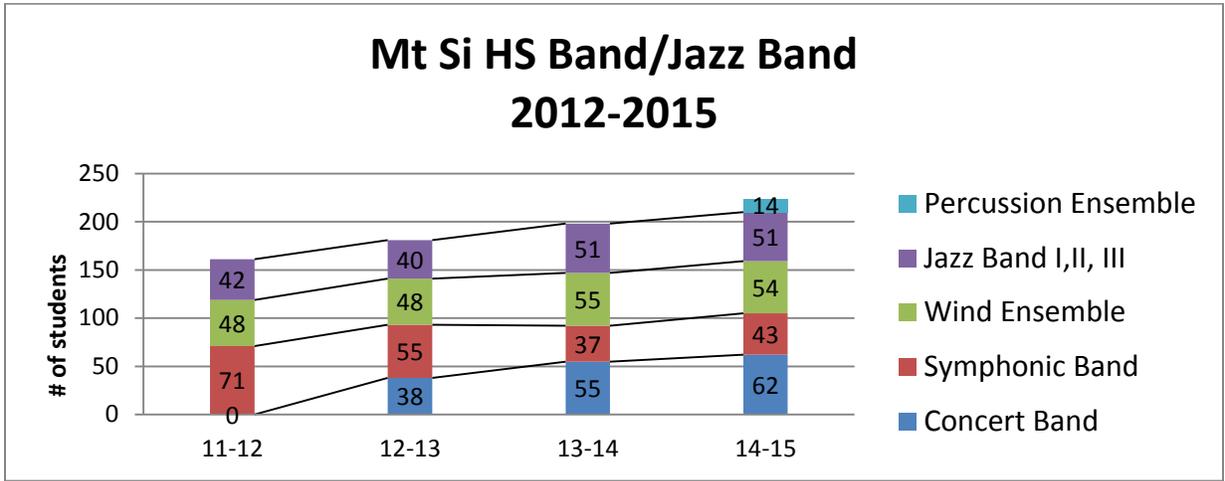


2. Percussion Ensemble: A specialized class for percussionists to develop advanced techniques on a variety of instruments as well as exposure to world percussion cultures. Students also participate in the Wildcat Drumline for home football games.



Band and Choir

Band and choir enrollment continues to grow. Part-time administrative assistance for both band and choir has been approved starting in 2015-16 school year. An additional FTE for band has been approved for 2016-17 school year.



*When you're in band, you are able to collaborate with other students, which is something you don't always get in other classes.
Nicole W., Senior*

Choir looks great on your transcript and it's also just a great class to be in. I have made so many new friends this year through choir and it really helped e get through high school this year. Taryn S., Sophomore