

Date: May, 2013

To: Scott Hodgins
Geoff Doy
Dan Popp
Marci Busby
Carolyn Simpson

Cc: Joel Aune, Don McConkey

From: Carol Reitz, SVSD Music Coalition

Subject: SVSD 3rd Annual Report on Music Education

Thank you for taking the time to review our third annual report on Music Education K-12 in the SVSD. Our Music Coalition, formed two 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 students in our district.

We have the opportunity to not only see that music survives in our district, but to realize the vision of our district as a destination for students seeking a well-rounded education which includes a stellar music program.

We've expanded our leadership team to include:

Carol Reitz, Coordinator
Matt Wenman, Teacher Liaison
Bob Wachtendonk, Marketing
Berry Rogers, Webmaster
Liz Piekarczyk, PTSA Liaison
Glynis Rogers, Social Media

It's been an exciting year. Our coalition has been held up as a model for developing coalitions in school districts around our state. Through the Washington Music Educators Association (WMEA), we've conducted training sessions over 18 times this school year including two sessions at the regional six-state music teacher conference in Portland. The goal of the WMEA is to create music coalitions in every school district in the state. We also published a paper in the WMEA publication telling the story of how we started the coalition. I encourage you to check it out: SVSDMusicCoalition.org.

We appreciate your taking the time to read the report, your past support and enthusiastic response to our work.

Sincerely,

Carol Reitz
SVSD Music Coalition/MSHS Band Boosters President
425-765-9284 carolreitz@msn.com

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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	<p>The coalition is built on the following principles:</p> <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. Our recommendations/concerns moving forward 2. A summary of the number of students involved in curricular, extra-curricular and co curricular music education across our district in the 5 elementary schools, 3 middle schools and high school. 3. An analysis of the attrition rate of music students moving from middle school to high school 4. Student achievements
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 website serves as a resource for parents, teachers and other coalitions around the state and region: SVSDMusicCoalition.org 3. Music Advocacy: From Survival to Vision, by John Benham 4. Washington Music Educators Association (WMEA), www.WMEA.org

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Concerns and Recommendations

Head-count data along with information from the first parent meeting, and the second annual attrition survey results are included in this report. The combination of this information and the major changes happening in our district this coming fall, have led us to the following concerns and recommendations:

Concern #1 The small participation rate of choir students at the high school level. Contributing factors include:

- Lack of recruiting by the HS director/turn-over in staff/lack of permanent position
- Parents/students don't have information about the benefits of being in choir
- The choir directors at the middle school level are band directors who are teaching both choir and band programs
- The lack of an elementary feeder program. There is only one elementary choral program – at FCE which is extra-curricular

Recommendation #1:

- Hire a full-time choir director and full-time band director at the middle school level. Students will have the benefit of directors who will be able to build programs in their area of expertise
- Active recruiting plan from the high school director including marketing to parents at the middle schools – holding combined concerts, attending middle school rehearsals, attending concerts, inviting students to high school concerts.

Concern #2 Lack of curricular alignment from elementary to high school and across similar grades:

- Students moving from elementary to middle school, enter high school, with a wide range of skills, knowledge and abilities
- Parents/students can't identify the learning objectives or assess how their student is progressing
- Lack of system for resource sharing across the district

Recommendation #2:

- Create a task force to determine common curricular goals; learning objectives/assessment and reporting
- Look at technology solutions for tracking student portfolios K-12; instruments, music equipment and music across the district. Benchmark other districts that are using effective software tools.

Concern #3 Lack of a long-range vision for music education

Recommendation #3:

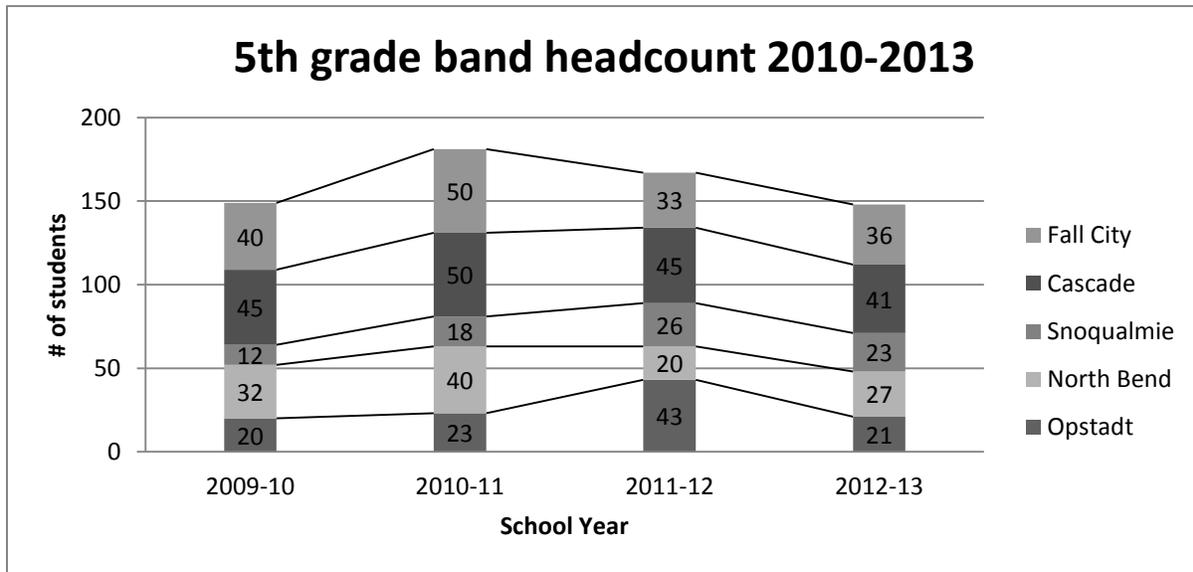
- Create a task force to determine the dream list for improving and offering a variety of opportunities for music involvement
- Involve parents, teachers, and administrators to create a picture of what we will look like 5-10 years out so we may be a district in which parents will want to have their students participate in a stellar music program.

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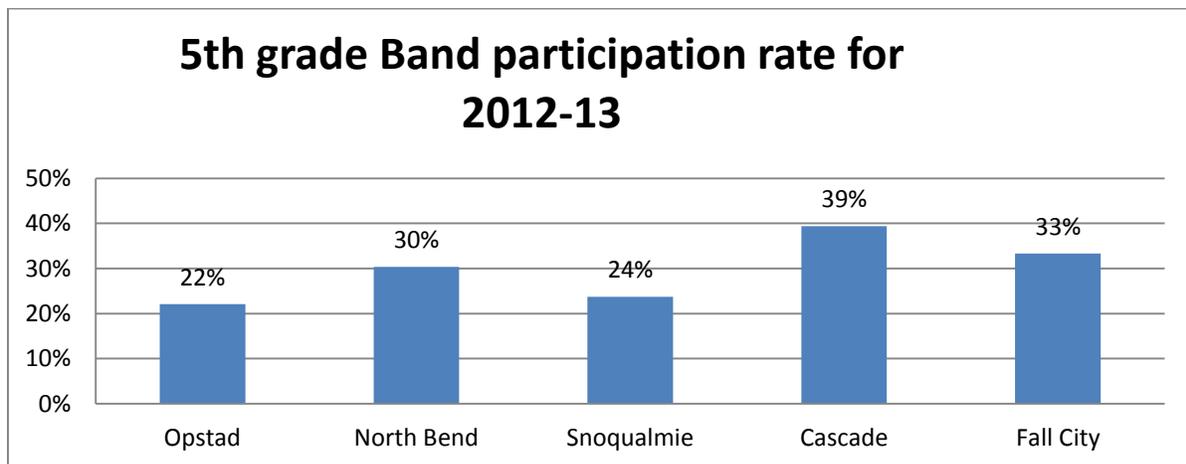
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Elementary Schools

Music Directors: Rachel Rice (FCES), April Herb (CVES), Kristi George (SES), Dan Thompson (NBE)/Lorraine Thurston (NBE band-stipend), Carol Heitt (OES)



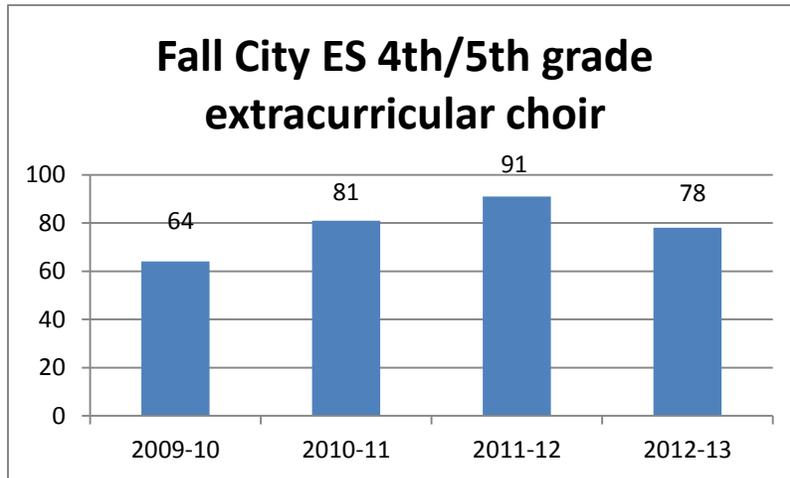
Band instruction is extra-curricular at all five elementary schools. The benchmark for highly successful programs has a participation rate of 65% for all instrumental students (which could include orchestra and band). Our current participation rate (number of students participating out of all 5th grade students) is 22-33% with a total of 148 students. Last year's 5th grade band participation rate was 33%, so the rate remains about the same for this year. There is some investigation needed to create more opportunity for 5th grade band participation.



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There is only one choral group that students have available at the elementary level – Fall City elementary chorus is made up of 4th and 5th grade students who meet once a week prior to the start of the school day. A choral experience provides students with a greater understanding of the proper use of their voices, breathing techniques, confidence and poise in front of an audience, and the joy of participating in a creative art form.



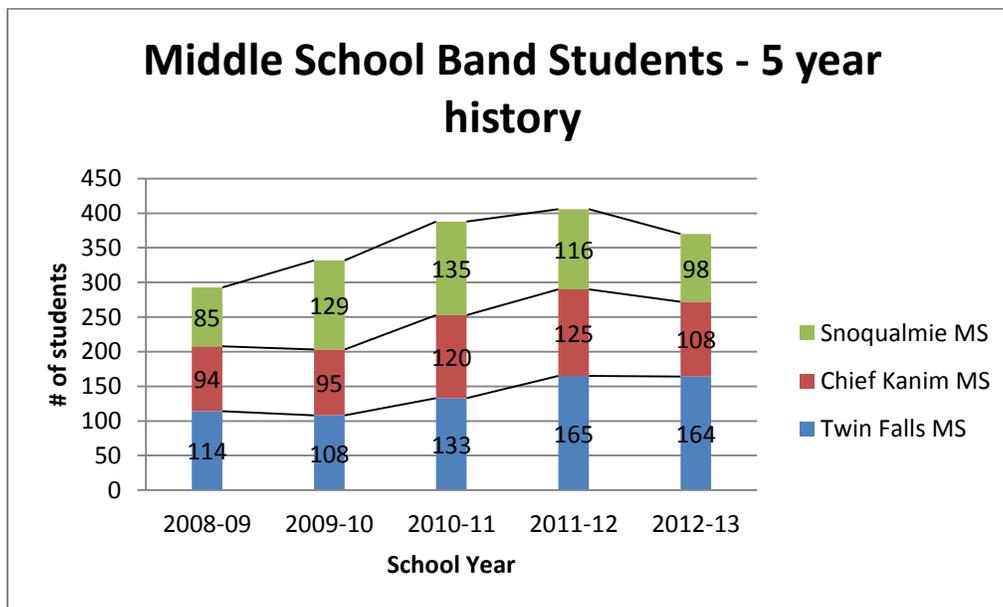
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Middle Schools

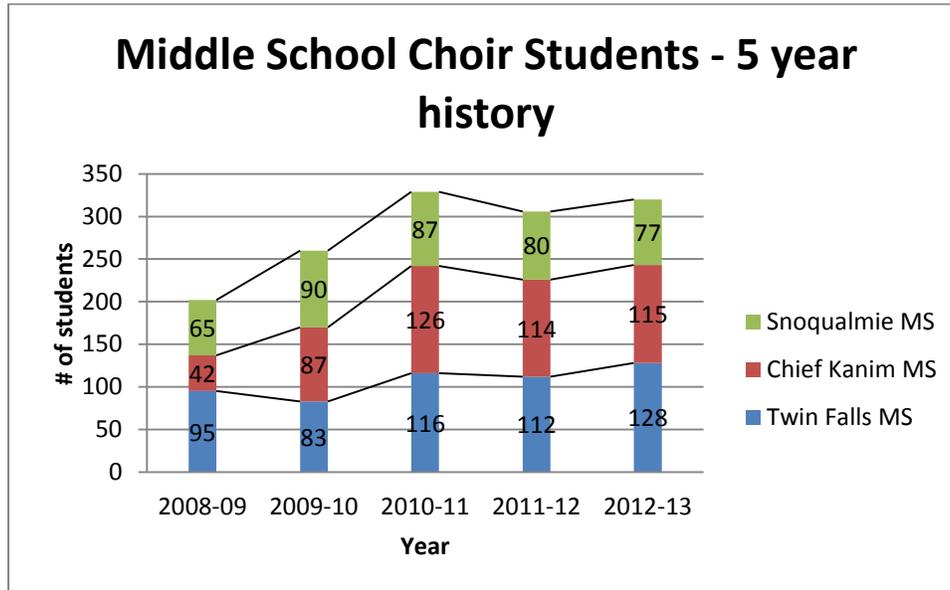
Music Directors: Haley Smith (CKMS), Dan Ray (SMS), Kelsey Jobst (TFMS)/Danny Kolke (Jazz II stipend)

Each middle school has a full-time music director responsible for both the 6-8th grade choirs, 6-8th grade band programs and extra-curricular jazz bands. Kelsey Jobst is the new band/choir director at Twin Falls on a one-year contract filling in for Matt Wenman who is on approved leave (working on a master's degree at CWU). Dan Ray at SMS, is on his 2nd year as replacement for Dean Snavelly on leave at CWU. Dean will not be returning to the district this fall.

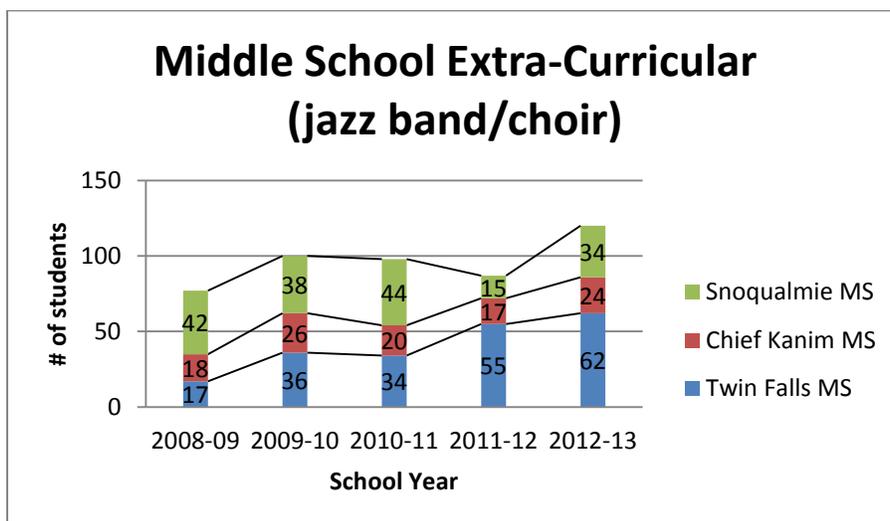


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The middle school jazz programs (extra-curricular) are healthy and have grown this year. Both SMS and TFMS have started an extra-curricular jazz choir.



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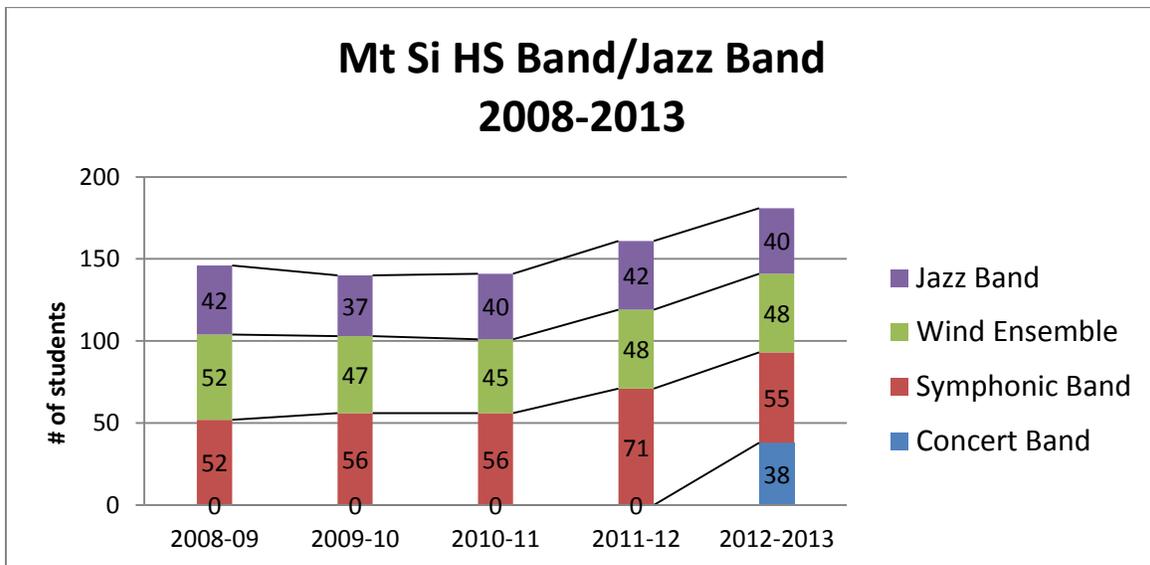
Mt Si High School

Music Directors: Ryan Harris (choral/theater arts), Adam Rupert (band), Matt Wenman (jazz II director, stipend)

Adam Rupert conducts the 3 concert bands, 2 jazz bands, football/basketball pep band and pit orchestra supporting the fall musical. A third concert band was created to accommodate the increased 9th grade enrollment. There are 3 jazz organizations which also is a result of the growth in the extra-curricular portion of the jazz program.

A highlight this year was the trip to Disneyland with 90 band students, 7 chaperones and band director. The students performed a concert in Disneyland and participated in a workshop where they recorded short music sound tracks to familiar Disney films. The students also spent time on the California University-Long Beach campus where they played in a workshop with the resident director and observed a jazz band rehearsal.

The jazz bands have consistently ranked high in the various festivals around the state.

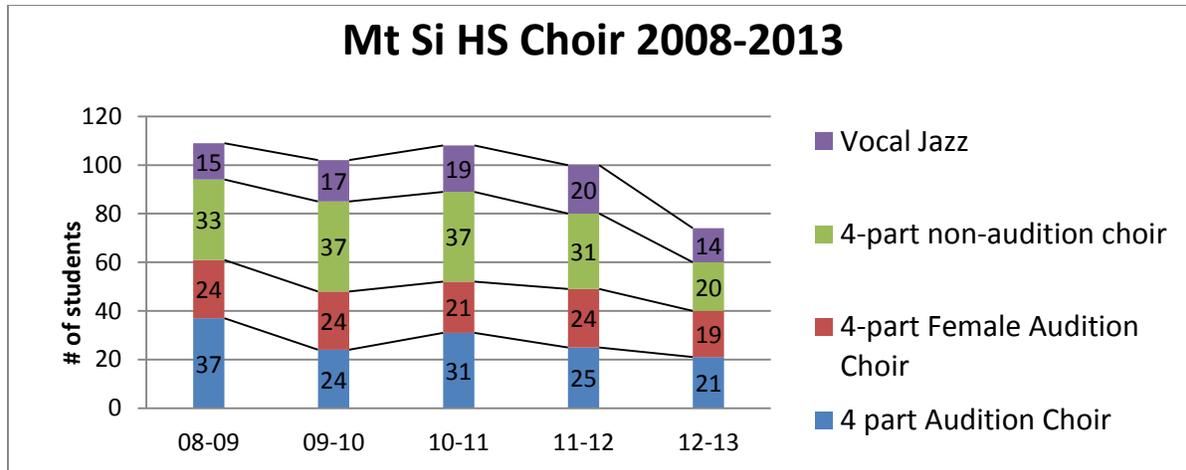


The band position is opening up with the departure of Adam Rupert. The coalition is working with John Belcher to provide recommendations for parents and students to be on the interview team and part of the decision process.

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The choirs include two auditioned select choirs, a non-auditioned concert ensemble and Jazz choir. Ryan Harris is in his second year replacing Kim Snavelly, who is completing her second-year of approved leave while attending grad school at CWU. She will not be returning to the district, so MSHS will start the process of filling the choir position as a permanent one. The coalition is working with John Belcher, to provide input and suggestions for participation in the hiring process of this position.



The coalition and John Belcher are developing a collaborative working relationship. At John's request, the coalition is also looking at other high schools who are offering an AP Music Theory class. We'll be sharing the results of that research soon.

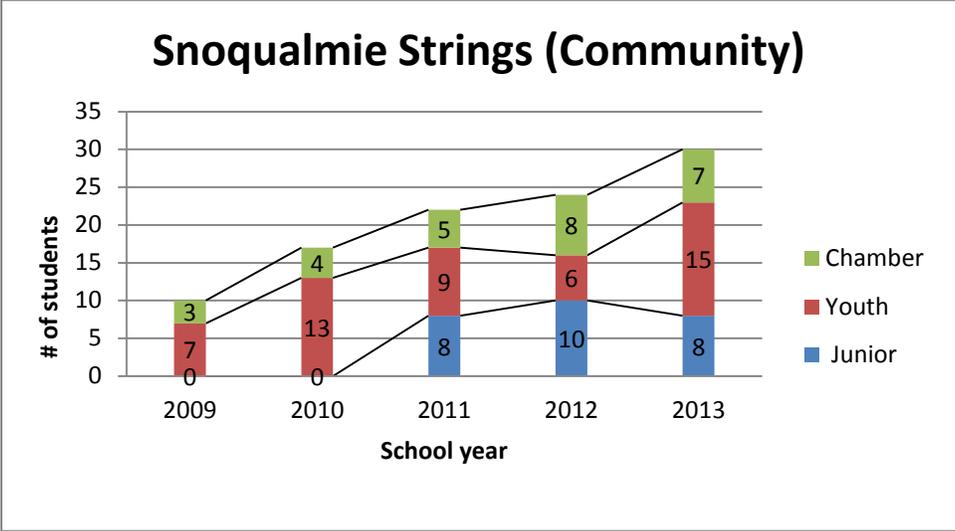
Snoqualmie Valley Strings – Director: Sheila Bateman

The Snoqualmie Valley Strings is a community based orchestra for string students in our valley. They rehearse once a week at Mount Si HS. There are students who participate ranging from elementary school (20), middle school (9) and high school (4) which includes three students from other districts. There are also currently 16 students taking after-school string classes at CVES, SES, and OES.

Curricular string programs are offered in neighboring districts. The long-range goal for SVSD students would include being able to offer an orchestral option – which would appeal to a different population of students and contribute to the growth of music education in the district overall.

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Music Student Attrition Rate for Middle to High School Transitions

Background

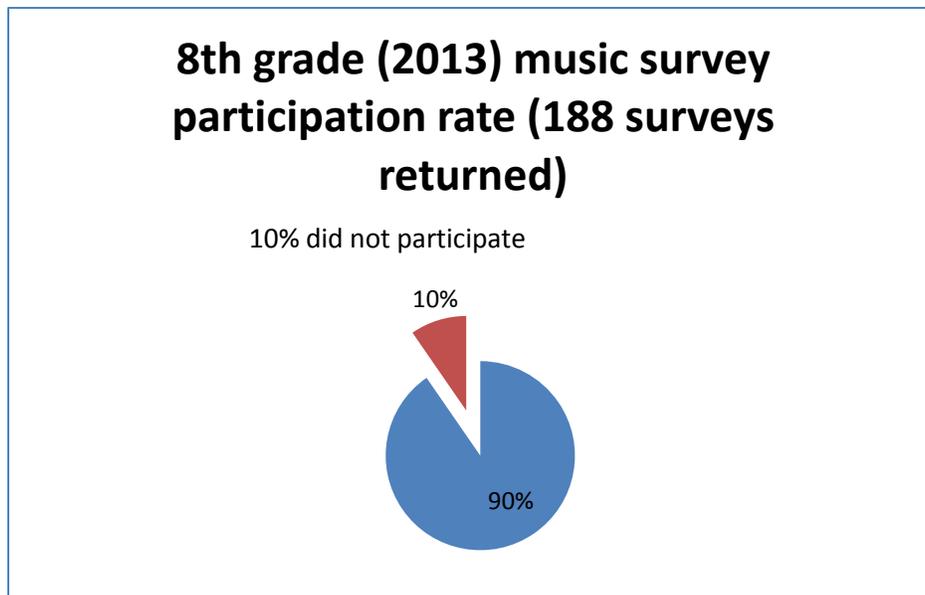
The attrition rate for band and choir students moving from middle school (8th grade) to high school (9th grade) has historically been very high, with only opinion and speculation for why this was occurring. Last year, all of the middle school music students were given a survey determine why they chose to discontinue band or choir in high school. The benchmark for attrition rates is 15% - anything higher should be investigated for cause. (Districts identified as of qualitative excellence – Culver, 1990)

Last year's survey participation rate for the three middle schools (Twin Falls, Snoqualmie and Chief Kanim) was 95%. The attrition rate for choir students was 70% and attrition rate for band students was 45%. These rates are well above what would we expect to see.

Current

For the second year, the middle school directors have surveyed their 8th grade choir and band students to determine why they are choosing to discontinue band or choir in high school.

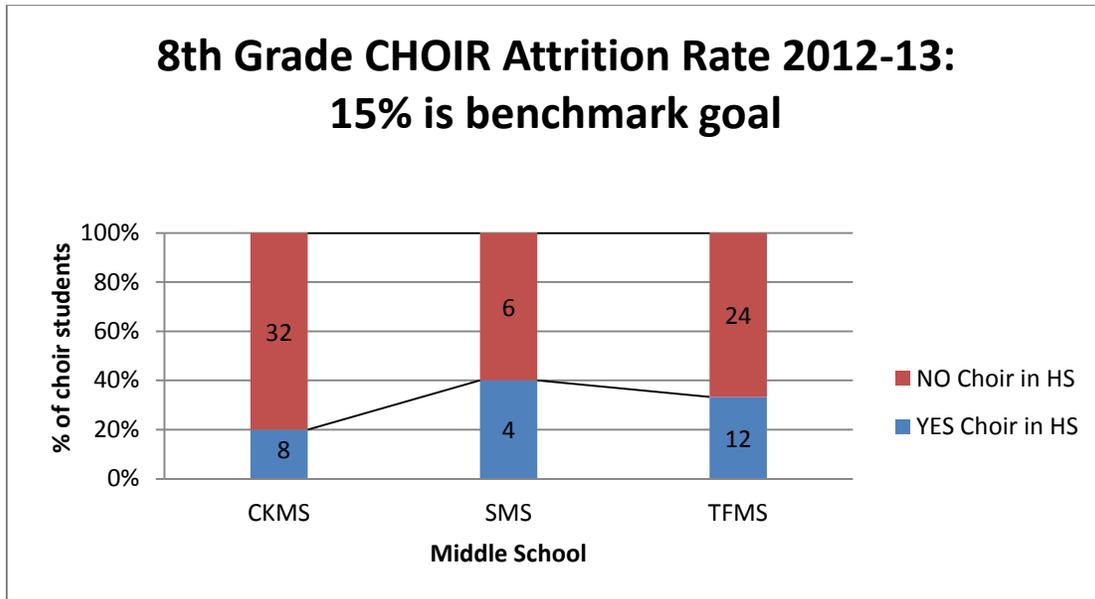
The survey participation rate was 90% with 188 surveys turned in.



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The choir attrition rate range is from 67-80% attrition rate with an overall attrition rate for all three middle schools of 72%.



The top four reasons students gave for not continuing choir in 9th grade:

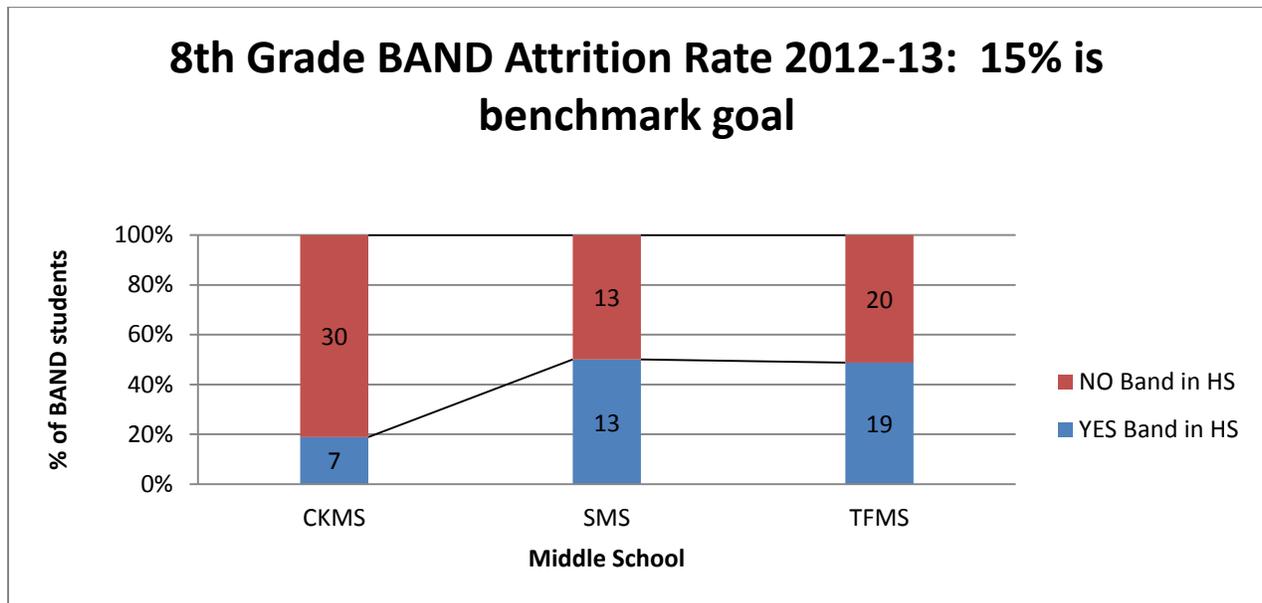
Reason	# of responses	% of total responses
Other electives sound more interesting	46	18%
No room in my schedule for choir	36	14%
Friends not taking choir	25	10%
Don't want to audition	24	10%

One reason for small numbers of choir students at the high school level is the result of weakness in our feeder system beginning at the elementary level. Finding choir specialists to teach choir at the middle school level, and creating a choral experience for all elementary students would provide a solid base and continuity for those students who would love to extend their singing experience into high school. Hiring a permanent choir director who has the time to build the program will also attract students who will want to participate.

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The band attrition rate range is from 50%-81% and the average rate for all three middle schools is 62%. Again, well above the 15% attrition rate expected in excellent programs.



The top four reasons student gave for not continuing band in 9th grade:

Reason	# of responses	% of total responses
Other electives sound more interesting	44	19%
No room in my schedule for choir	36	16%
Don't like band	29	13%
Not important to my HS or college career	23	10%

Conclusion/Potential Action Plan

A combination of educating parents and students about the benefits of staying in music through high school is necessary. Also, the high school band and choir directors need to make a conscious effort to be the face of music to the students in the lower grades –showing up for their concerts, attending rehearsals, inviting them to combined concerts.

Stabilizing the band and choir director personal at the middle school level will help develop and grow the program.

We also need to work with counselors to make sure they are providing positive support for students trying to fit in choir and band for the four years of high school.

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SVSD Music Student Honors 2012-213

Snoqualmie Middle School, Director: Dan Ray

Tyler Bateman, percussion-*Jr. All-State Band*

Alison Caswell-*Jr. All-State Treble Choir*

Hayla Takele-*Jr. All-State Treble Choir*

Julie Cleveland-*Jr. All-State Youth Choir*

Meghan McLaughlin-*Jr. All-State Youth Choir*

Keira Mix-*Jr. All-State Youth Choir*

Georgia Schnepf-*Jr. All-State Youth Choir*

MSHS Bands, Director: Adam Rupert

Christian Henriksen – *All State Concert Band*

Boon Hapke – *All NW Orchestra*

Boon Hapke – *Qualified for State Solo competition on Bassoon*

Janna Haskin -- *Qualified for State Solo competition on Bari sax*

Jacob Wachtendonk (Tenor Sax) – *Qualified as alternate soloist for State Solo competition*

Aaron Tevis-*PLU NW Honor Band*

Nic Apone-*PLU NW Honor Band*

Ryan Grate-*PLU NW Honor Band*

Christian Henriksen-*PLU NW Honor Band*

Torin Weatherbee-*PLU NW Honor Band*

Twin Falls MS, Director: Kelsey Jobst

Kaitlyn Rogers – *Jr. All State Mixed Voice Choir*

Adele Werner – *Jr. All State Band*

Chief Kanim MS, Director: Haley Smith

Angel See – *Jr. All State Band*

Claire Old Loohuis – *Jr. All State Mixed Voice Choir*

MSHS Choirs, Director: Ryan Harris

Brooke Beatie, Jonica Beatie and Morgan Myers—*Qualified for State competition in the Women's Vocal Small Ensemble division*

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SVSD Collaborative Highlights 2012-2013

The existence of the coalition has resulted in greater teamwork with the district music educators. It started with consensus building around the development of the coalition, and the development of the annual reports. Creating a common vision for music education would be the next step. We've established a foundation to start working on building better processes for improving learning for music students.

Combined concerts and events is the results of a greater willingness and ability to work together.

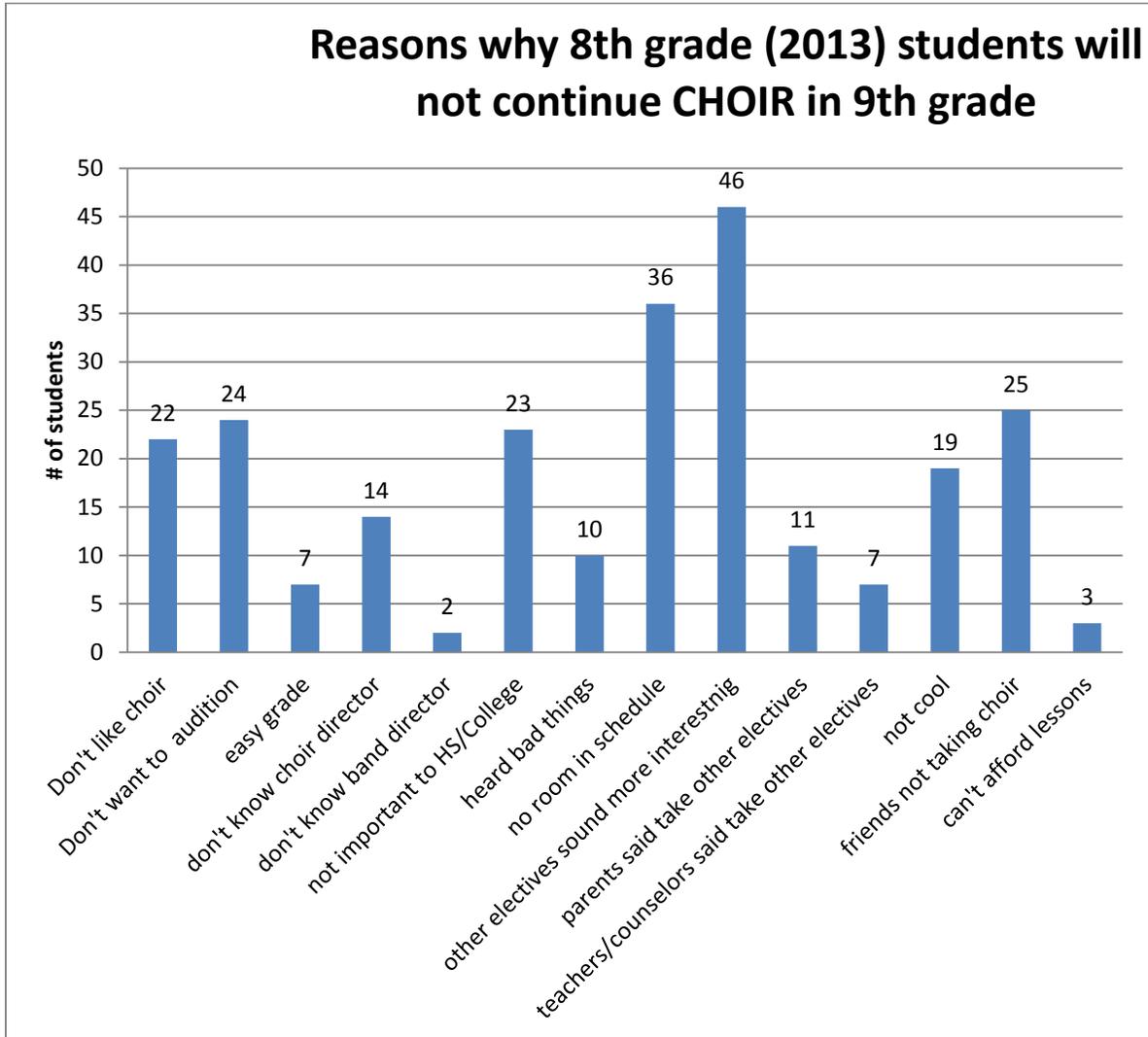
- October, 2012. About 30 guys from all 3 middle schools and MSHS attended Guys Got 2 Sing, a men's vocal workshop hosted by Cascade HS in Everett, WA. The men worked with members of the quartet "Just 4 Kicks" (Vijay Singh, Kirby Shaw, Kirk Marcy, and Randy Crenshaw) and Dr. Gary Weidenaar. There were over 300 male 7th-12th graders singing at one time!
- October, 2012. Dr. Ron Carter offered a jazz clinic at Boxley's with Jazz I students from all three middle schools
- January, 2013. SVSD music faculty put on an entertaining night of music – from classical solos, to rock guitar and ending with a jazz band featuring all 13 members. Proceeds are added to the district scholarship fund.
- December, 2012. North Bend ES 5th grade band plays a combined concert with the Sno-Valley Winds – a community band.
- February, 2013. All-District Jazz Festival featuring Jazz I from Chief Kanim MS, Snoqualmie Middle School, Jazz I and II from Twin Falls MS and Jazz I and II from Mount Si HS
- March, 2013. Twin Falls MS hosts a band concert with Opstad ES and North Bend ES 5th grade bands
- March, 2013. Fall City ES and Chief Kanim hold a combined 4th/5th grade and middle school choir concert

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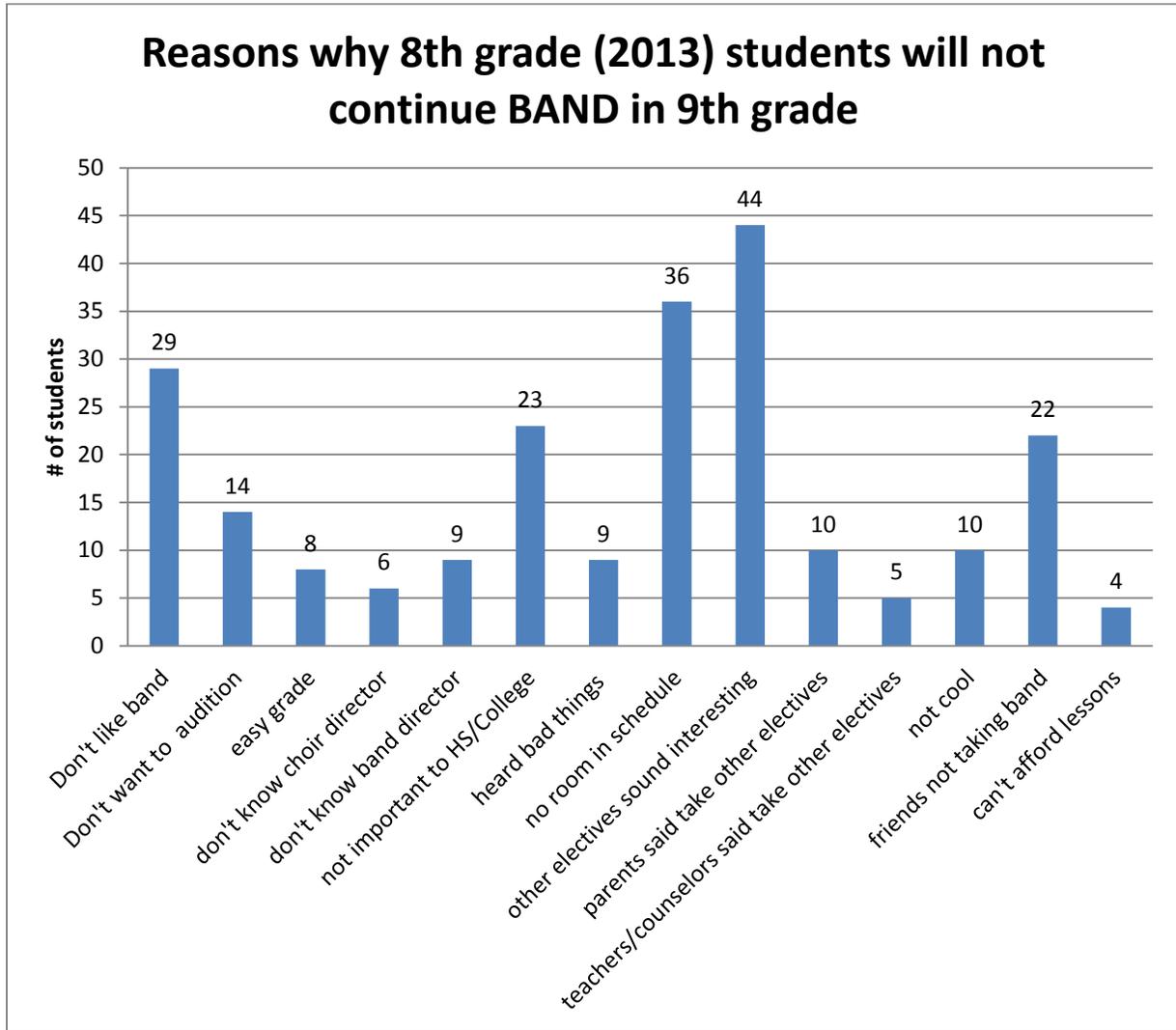
APPENDIX

Detailed summary of 8th grade attrition rate survey:



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SVSD Music Coalition Meeting Summary

Thursday, January 17, 2013

6:30-8:30 p.m. MSHS auditorium

Facilitators: Carol Reitz, Matt Wenman

Parents in attendance: 40 Teachers in attendance: H. Smith, D. Ray, R. Rice, A. Rupert

Schools represented: MSHS Band MSHS Choir; TFMS, CKMS, SMS; NBE, FCE, SES, OES

Meeting objective: To solicit feedback, input and ideas from music students, parents and community for improving the music curriculum K-12 in the SVSD. The goal is to solicit a school board appointed task to address music curriculum for the district.

These issues were shared with the middle and high school principals and with Joel Aune and Don McConkey. The issues raised have been addressed in our summary of concerns and recommendations.

Summary of major concerns, issues, questions

Concern	Impact on students
<p>Middle School band/choir staffing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher turn-over • Handling very large classes • Running two programs – band and choir • Unequal class time with other core subjects and between middle schools. • Benchmark: choir and bands taught by separate teachers – meeting every day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choir students are taught by teachers teaching outside of their specialty – students not learning quality choral technique; limited offered outside classroom opportunities – festivals, contests. • Choir and band is a program requiring and offering outside experiences to students – festival, contests, travel, solo-ensemble, right now choir students are getting less of the opportunities. • Parental dissatisfaction with the focus on band students and opportunities, not given to choir students. • With one teacher and the current schedule, there is no flexibility for growth or changing needs of students – lack of ability to address wide skill levels in one classroom. • Especially in 6th grade, with the widest degree of skill gaps, slows progress, advanced students check-out, quit or become disruptive. • In band, starting band must start in 5th or 6th grade • Bands and choirs, based on grade, not ability,

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	<p>holds back all kids to the level of the newest and least skilled</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent turn-over of teachers disrupts the learning, and the program takes 2-3 years to recover the numbers and progress
<p>Attrition rate – between 8th and 9th grade – currently 70% for choir and 45% for band. (based on the 2011-12 survey of 8th grade music students)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students don't continue with band or choir thinking they don't have room in their schedule • Conflicts with AP classes may cause students to drop band/choir • Students missing choir opportunities based on limited knowledge of the program, the director, misperceptions about audition process
<p>9th grade campus: Questions and concerns</p>	<p>Will 9th graders have access to ability based band and choirs? Jazz bands?</p>
<p>5th grade band: instrumental participation rate is 30% compared to a benchmark of 65%</p>	<p>Student's ability to participate in 5th grade band is limited by parent ability to transport them to school outside of the school day.</p>