

Date: May, 2014

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

Cc: Joel Aune, Don McConkey

From: Carol Reitz, SVSD Music Coalition

Subject: SVSD 4th Annual Report on Music Education

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

Our original short term goal was to make sure music survives, but we are at the point where we may begin creating an exciting vision of our district as a destination for students seeking a well-rounded education which includes a highly sought after music program. We've outlined major areas of improvement and recommendations.

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 with many changes in personnel, growing programs, and our high school, and district receiving national recognition for excellence in High School Jazz.

We continue to be recognized statewide as leaders in the coalition work, and have made local and state wide presentations sharing our processes and experience.

We appreciate your taking the time to read the report and 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. 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, 2 middle schools and high school. 2. Summary of the retention rate of music students from 8th to 9th grade 3. Short biographies of the current music staff 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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Summary of Recommendations

Both Mr. Aune and Mr. Belcher have expressed the desire to be the best school district in Washington State by any measure. One of the key factors for families choosing schools can be the quality of music programs offered. Below are areas that are necessary for basic music education:

1. Offer a comprehensive instrumental option, which includes orchestra beginning at the elementary level.

Orchestra is a missing instrumental offering that has never been available in our district. The existence of the community strings program may provide a good base for establishing this program.

2. Offer a structured choral opportunity at the elementary level.

Currently, only one of the five elementary schools offers a structured choral opportunity that has been an exciting option for students and parents. This needs to be an opportunity for students at all elementary schools.

3. Separation of band and choir by instructor specialty.

At Chief Kanim, the choir specialist is teaching choir, and band specialist is teaching band. Not quite there with Twin Falls, as the band instructor is teaching one period of choir.

4. Curricular alignment from elementary to high school

Common curricular goals as students move from the 5 elementary programs to the two middle schools to the one high school, would enhance the ability of teachers to provide enhanced learning experiences, and reduce frustration by students resulting from wide skill discrepancies in one classroom.

Addressing these issues would require district and administrative commitment to identifying the resources to create the vision, benchmark districts with excellent music programs and develop long-term plans.

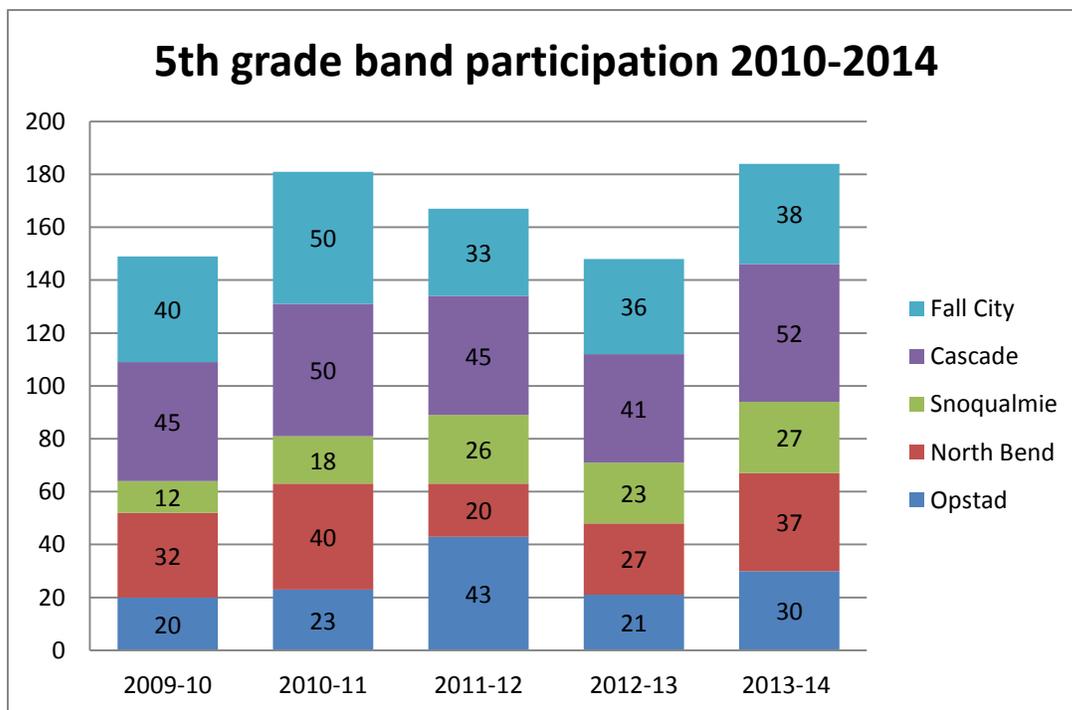
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Elementary Schools

Music Directors: Rachel Rice O'Neill (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 35%. Last year's 5th grade band participation rate was 33%, so rate has slightly increased this year.

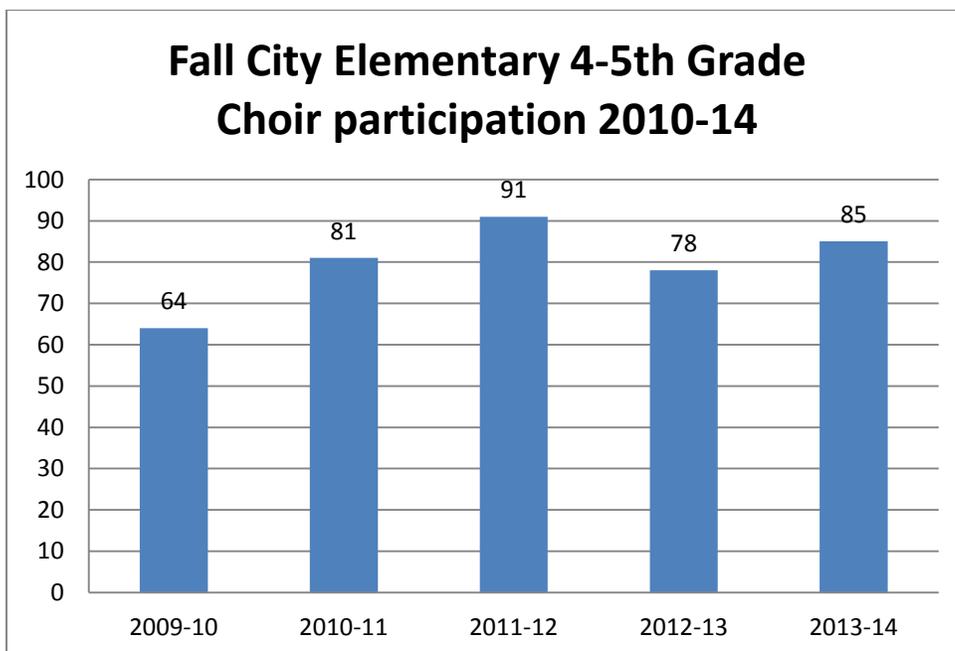


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There is only one choral group that students have available at the elementary level. The Fall City Elementary chorus is made up of 4th and 5th grade students who meet once a week prior to the start of the school day directed by Rachel Rice O'Neill. The 85 students represent 43% of the 4th and 5th grade students. Clearly, there is an opportunity to provide a similar experience for students at the other four elementary schools, which could be based on the Fall City Elementary model.

A choral experience provides students with a greater understanding of the proper use of their voices, breathing and phrasing techniques, confidence and poise in front of an audience, and the joy of participating in a creative art form.



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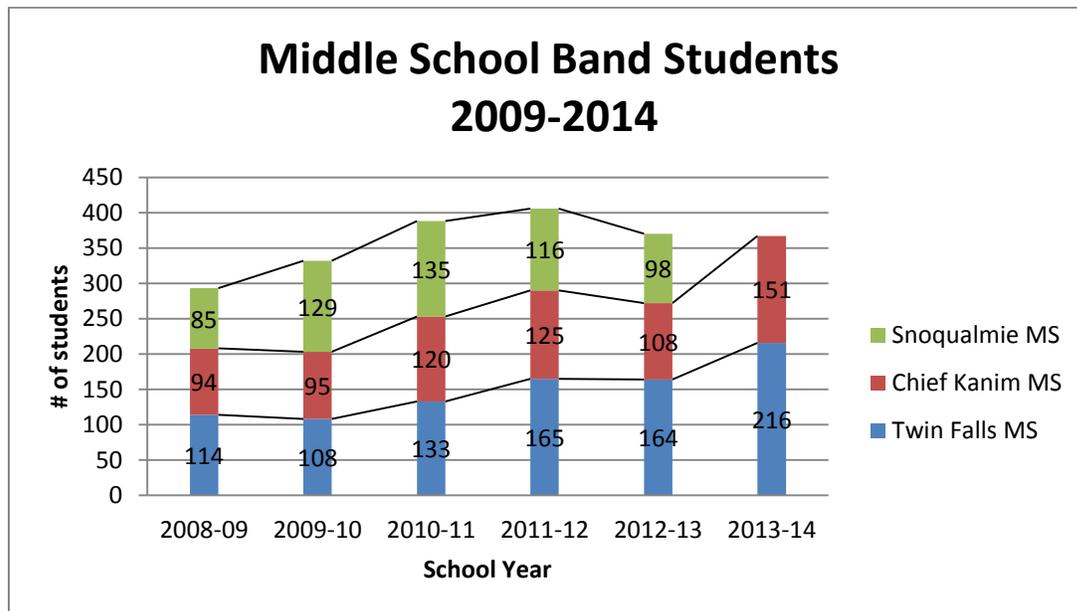
Middle Schools

Band Directors: Haley Smith (CKMS), Dan Taylor (TFMS), Danny Kolke (TFMS Jazz II-Instructional Assistant)

Choir Directors: Laura Thompson (CKMS), Daniel McCafferty (TFMS), Dan Taylor (TFMS)

With the change in student population at the two middle schools, administrators were able to add a full-time choir director at CKMS, and part-time choir director at TFMS.

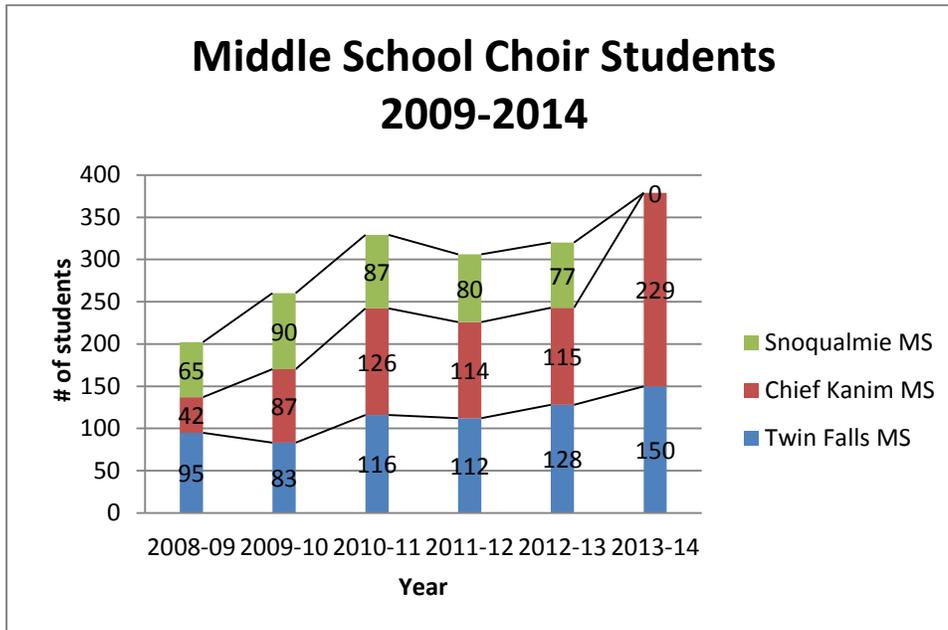
Total band students are 367 compared to 370 last year – so numbers have stayed constant. The Twin Falls MS Band director also teaches the 8th grade choir.



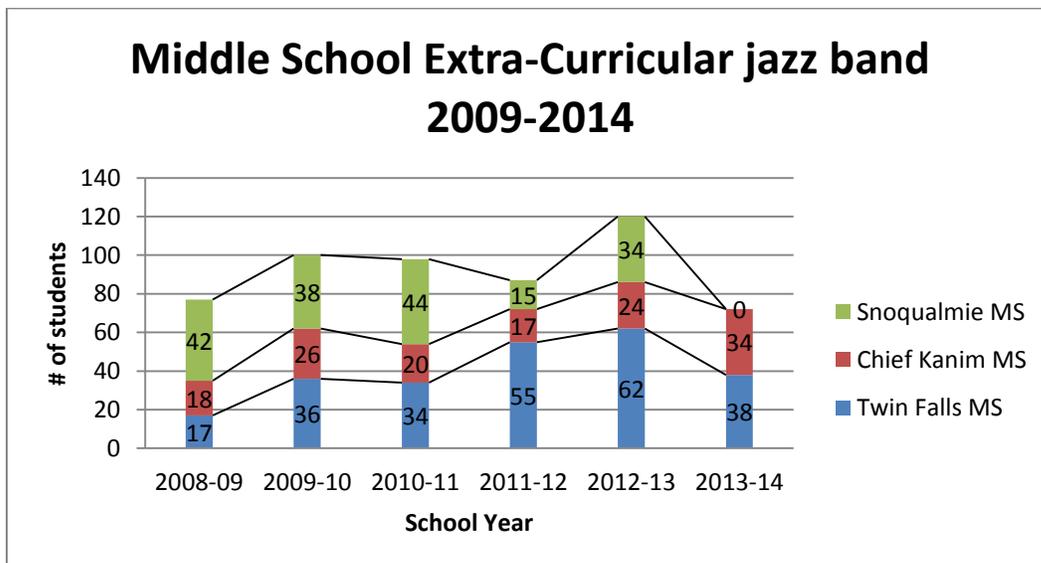
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The biggest change at this level is the hiring of choir specialists. In previous years, choirs have been taught by the band directors. The choir director at CKMS, Laura Thompson, is full-time and the choir director, Dan McCafferty, at TFMS is part-time. The choir student seat count is 379 versus 320 last year.



The middle school jazz programs' (extra curricular) participation has dropped this year.



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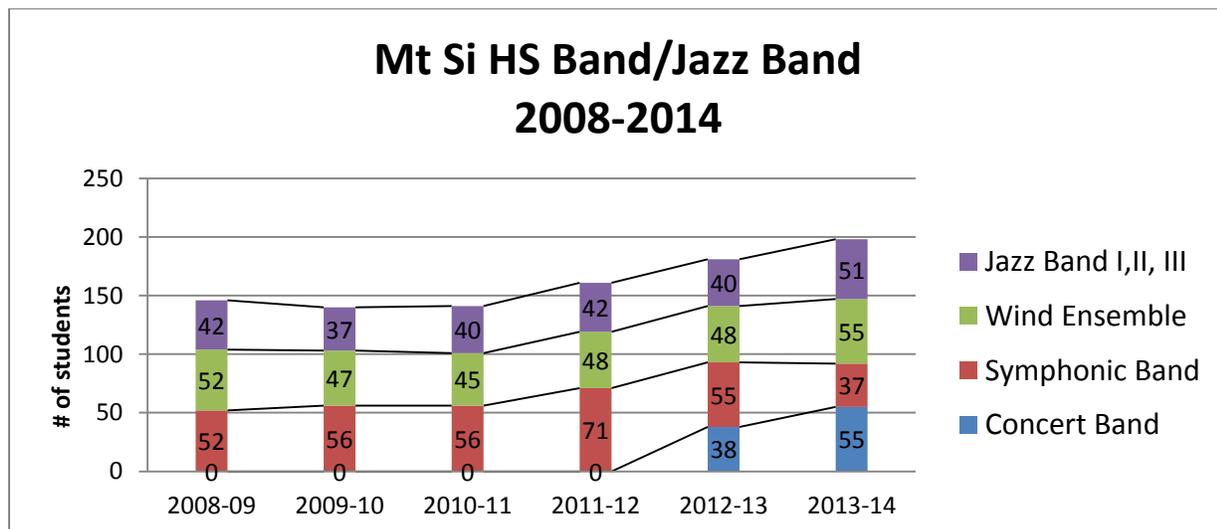
Mt Si High School

Band Directors: Matt Wenman (band), Danny Kolke (jazz II/III director, Instructional Assistant/Booster funds)

While Matt Wenman is new to MSHS, he is not new to the district, having taken one year off from teaching four years at TFMS to pursue a Masters Degree.

Working closely with the Band Boosters, there have been many changes:

1. Over \$13,000 was raised in two months last summer to purchase a drumline as a much needed addition to the football pep band. Football fans enjoyed the band coordinating with the cheer squad and student section creating an entertaining Friday night football experience. The band looked great in their new pepband jackets.
2. A music specific database program was piloted this year. The complete program allows detailed tracking of instruments, uniforms, locker assignments, financial records, music library and more efficient communication with parents and students. It has been recommended and approved to roll this CHARMS office product out to the middle school and high school choir departments next year.
3. The jazz bands have been very successful this year.
 - a. Jazz I took third place at the Bellevue College Jazz Fest
 - b. At the Jazz NW Fest in Spokane, Jazz I and Jazz II took first place in their respective divisions. Jazz I also won the overall Sweepstakes award.
 - c. Jazz has received national recognition by being one of 15 bands chosen nationwide to compete at the Essentially Ellington competition at Lincoln Center in NYC. The support from the administration, individuals and organizations in our community has been astounding – raising over \$24,000 adding to the parent contribution of \$14,000 in two months to allow the 20 students and 4 chaperones to travel to NYC in May.



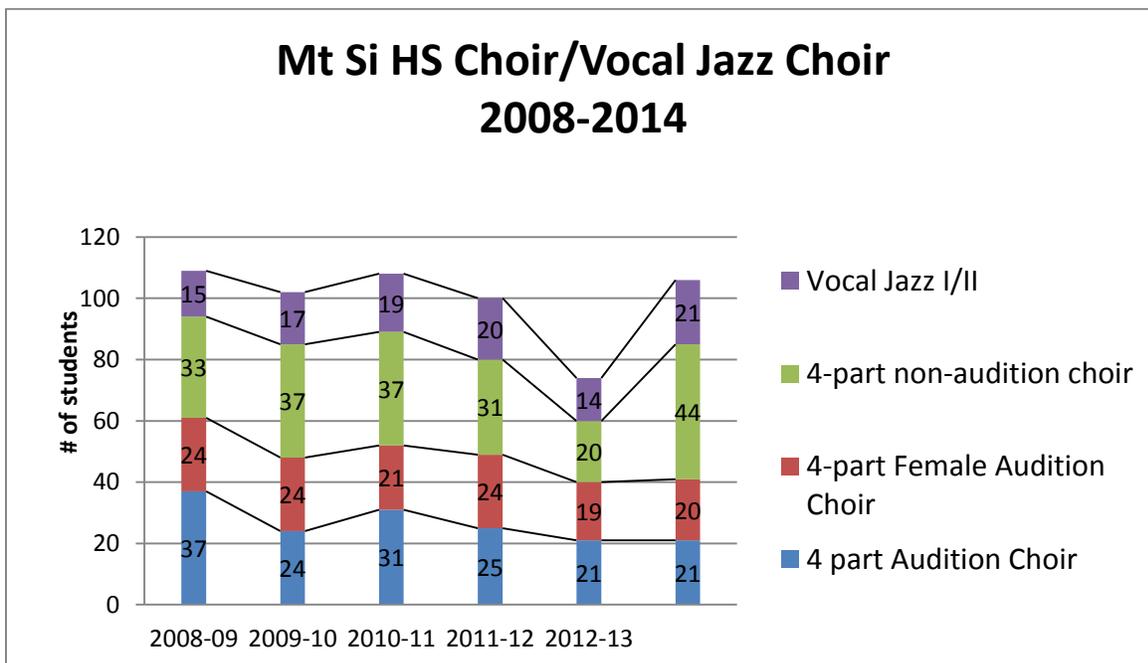
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Choir/Theater Directors: Haley Franzwa-Isaacs (Choir/Theater/Vocal Jazz I), Dan McCafferty (Vocal Jazz II – Instructional Assistant)

Haley Isaacs, while new to MSHS is not new to the district. Haley left her three year stint at CKMS as the choir/band director to spend two years completing her Masters Degree. There have been many changes since her arrival:

1. The musical Fiddler on the Roof this year included collaborating with the band to provide a pit orchestra. The art and construction departments were excited to collaborate for the first time ever on set construction and design.
2. Continued collaborative concerts with Fall City Elementary school 4th-5th grade choir.
3. Superior ratings at regional festivals for all three major choirs
4. Combining the vocal jazz ensembles with the jazz band ensembles for their concerts this year has increased the exposure of these groups to a new audience and greater appreciation for these art forms. Vocal Jazz II was an additional ensemble opportunity directed by Daniel McCafferty.



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Music Student Retention Rate for the Middle to High School Transition

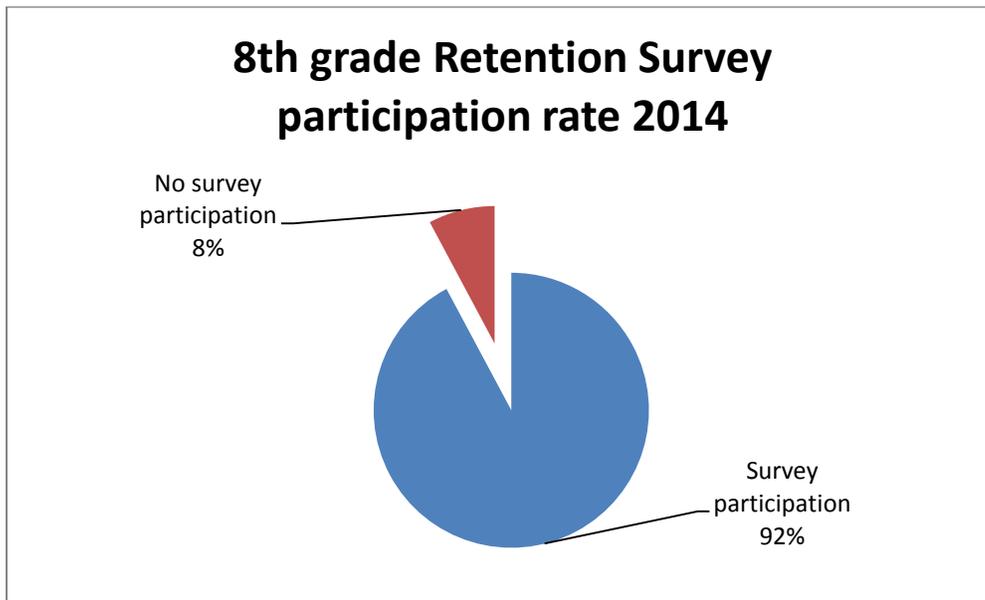
Background

The retention rate for band and choir students moving from middle school (8th grade) to high school (9th grade) has historically been very low, with only opinion and speculation for why this was occurring. This is the third year we've collected data from the 8th grade music students to determine why they chose to or not continue music in high school. The benchmark retention rate is 85% - anything lower than this should be investigated for cause. (Districts identified as of qualitative excellence – Culver, 1990)

Current

For the third year, the middle school directors have surveyed their 8th grade choir and band students to determine why they chose to continue band or choir in high school. The survey was given immediately after the students registered for their fall classes.

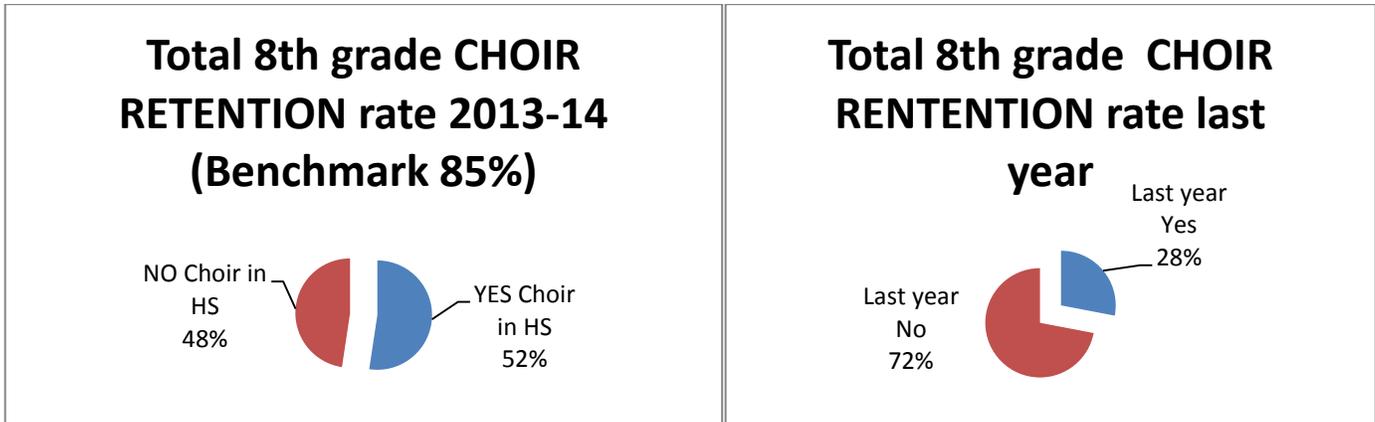
The survey participation rate was 92% with 189 surveys turned in.



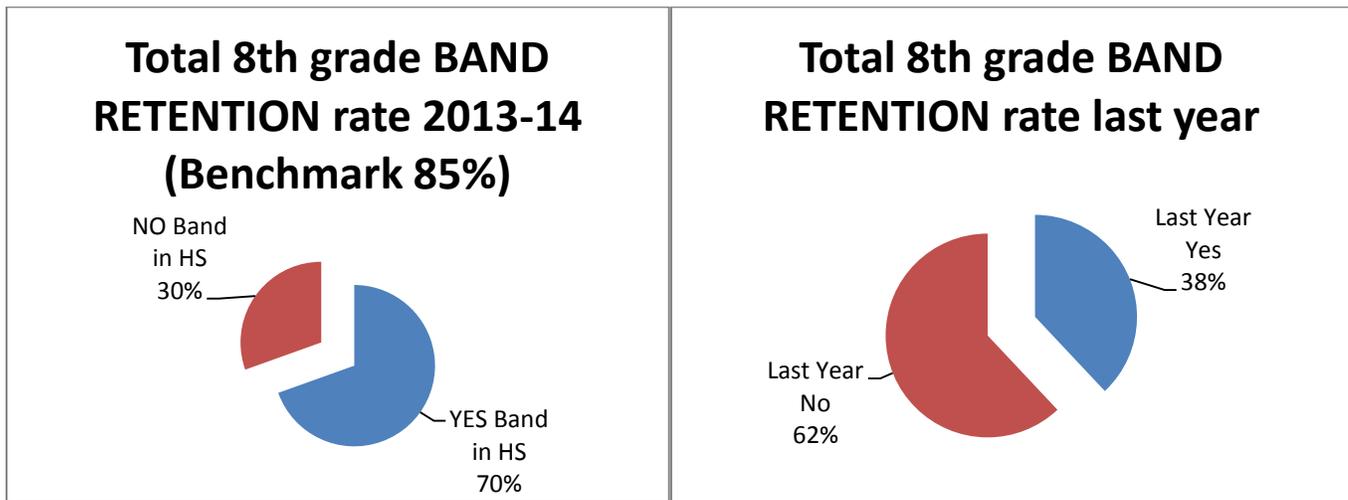
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The total choir retention rate this year is 52% compared to 28% last year. The benchmark is 85%.



The total retention rate this year for band is 70% versus 38% last year. The benchmark is 85%.



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

Reason	# of responses	% of total responses
Other electives sound more interesting	51	22%
Not important to my HS or college career	32	14%
Don't like choir or band	26	11%
My friends aren't taking choir or band	21	9%

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Conclusion

The significant positive change in the retention rate is due to the following actions taken by the HS band and choir directors. The data collected in the surveys compiled in the previous two years helped them narrow down their action plan.

1. Building a quality program that students and parents want to be a part of.
2. Matt and Haley spending a lot of time with the HS counselors to find out about what the graduation requirements are, building sample schedules for incoming 9th graders, and each sharing their challenges and goals.
3. Attending middle school band and choir concerts and leading evening rehearsals.
4. Scheduling a music department open house to address parents of incoming freshman
5. Being present at the Future Freshman night at the Freshman campus
6. Spending time with all 8th grade music students at both middle schools, bringing current HS music students with them, to answer questions, let them know why staying in music in HS is a positive and possible thing to do. This was scheduled right before registration for next year.
7. Creating and sharing band and choir recruiting videos for students and parents.

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SVSD Music Student Honors 2013-14

Fourteen Talented Students Selected for All-State Bands and Choirs

Fourteen Snoqualmie Valley student musicians and vocalists were selected for All-State bands and choirs this year by the Washington Music Educators Association (WMEA). Based on blind auditions, six middle school students were chosen for the Junior All-State band and choir, and eight Mount Si High School students were finalists in the All-State music groups. They performed with top musicians from around the state under the direction of renowned conductors at the WMEA State Conference in Yakima February 16.

Congratulations to the 2014 honorees (listed by school):

Chief Kanim Middle School:

Tyler Bateman (8th) percussion, and **Mary Piekarczyk** (7th) clarinet —Jr. All-State Band; **Jessica Conlon** (8th) and **Catalina Jarocki** (6th) —Jr. All-State Choir

Twin Falls Middle School:

Hayla Takela (8th) —Jr. All-State Treble Choir; **Adele Werner** (8th) clarinet —Jr. All-State Band

Mount Si High School:

Brooke Beatie (12th) —All-State Treble Choir; **Jonica Beatie** (11th), **Krista Cassidy** (12th), and **Madelynn Esteb** (12th) —All-State Symphonic Choir; **Boone Hapke** (12th) bassoon—All-State Orchestra; **Christian Henriksen** (12th) flute —All-State Concert Band; **Derek Lee** (12th) and **Morgan Myers** (11th) —All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble

In addition, **Boone Hapke** (12th) bassoon, qualified as a state solo and ensemble finalist. **Madelynn Esteb** (12th) was 2nd alternate for alto, **Madelynn Esteb** was 2nd alternate for soprano and a large women's ensemble 1st alternate at the state level --**Natalie Werner** (11th), **Morgan Myers** (11th), **Krista Cassidy** (12th), **Jonica Beatie** (11th) and **Brooke Beatie** (12th).

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Short bios of the district music staff are included because of the number of new people in new positions.

Elementary School

Dan Thompson – General Music Specialist at North Bend ES

Dan has been teaching music for 29 years. He has taught elementary music, choir and band, middle school and high school band and choir. Dan has a BA in Music Education from SPU as well as a Masters in Curriculum and Technology from SPU. He enjoys all kinds of music and has a studio at where he composes songs for the kids and other venues. Dan gives private lessons in voice, guitar and trumpet. Favorite hobbies include: skiing, biking, off road motorcycling and wind surfing.

Lorraine Thurston - Band director at North Bend ES

Lorraine is a tuba veteran of over 25 years. She plays in her local community band, the SnoValley Winds, as well as with a semi-professional brass band in Bellevue called Brass Band Northwest. Lorraine volunteers a lot of time in local schools. She shares her love of music with her son, Erik, who plays tuba as well as trombone and piano, and with her husband, Richard, who is a great listener. She is from North Cooking Lake, Alberta, Canada and studied Music Education at the University of Alberta.

Rachel Rice O’Neill–General Music Specialist at Fall City ES

Rachel graduated from Central Washington University in 2010 with a Bachelor’s of Music in Broad Area Music Education, and is currently in her fourth year of teaching at FCE. Under her direction, the extra-curricular Fall City Elementary 4th/5th Grade Chorus has grown to almost 90 members for the last four years. The choir takes an annual trip to CWU’s Music Department in Ellensburg, where they work with esteemed CWU vocal professors and performing groups. She also directs FCE’s extra-curricular 5th Grade Beginning Band. Rachel’s primary instruments are clarinet and piano, and she also loves to sing. Fall City students are now getting used to calling “Miss Rice” by the new last name of “O’Neill,” since she just got married in December 2013! She resides in Issaquah with her newlywed husband Tom. They enjoy being Young Life leaders at Skyline High School, playing board games and eating ice cream.

April Herb – General Music Specialist at Cascade View ES

April grew up in East Wenatchee, Washington and knew when in first grade that she wanted to be a music teacher! Her parents taught her and always encouraged her to sing and dance. She began playing flute and piano in the sixth grade and continued playing band, jazz band, youth orchestra, flute society, lessons, and also competed in many festivals. April studied Music Education at Central Washington University and graduated in 2002. She is in her tenth year of teaching elementary music and band in the Snoqualmie Valley School District. April lives in Snoqualmie with her husband Mike, who is a high school band director, and three year old daughter, Natalie, who is a little musician too! The two of them are also members of the community band, SnoValley Winds.

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Carol Heitt – General Music Specialist at Opstad ES

Carol grew up in Kirkland, WA and started playing saxophone in the concert and jazz bands. She attended Central Washington University and received a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education K-12 in 1995. There, she learned clarinet and played in the orchestra, wind ensemble and jazz band. Her first teaching job was in Eastern Washington teaching K-12 music and band. During the next 12 years she taught in various districts teaching mainly elementary band and general music. She plays clarinet in the SnoValley Winds. Carol has been teaching in the Snoqualmie Valley School District since 2007.

Kristi George – General Music Specialist and band instructor at Snoqualmie ES

Kristi George is a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Kearney. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Vocal and Instrumental Music in 1977 and her Masters in Music Education with an emphasis in Flute pedagogy in 1984 from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Kristi has been teaching music for over 30 years and has taught on every level and in all subject areas of music. Kristi is certified in Orff-Schulwerk on two levels from Colorado State University. Kristi is married to Richard George and has two children and three grandchildren. Other interests include sewing, knitting, reading, and traveling. The George's own a 1963 Serro Scotty camper that has been kept in its original condition since they purchased it in the 70's that still rolls down the road!

Middle School

Haley Smith – Director of bands at Chief Kanim MS

Haley graduated from Whitworth University in Spokane with a major in music and a Music Education degree from Central Washington University. This is her third year of teaching. She played jazz piano in her high school jazz band and is primarily a clarinet player.

Laura Thompson – Director of choirs at Chief Kanim MS

Laura is excited to be teaching choir at Chief Kanim! She graduated from Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois with a Bachelor in Music Education, and for the last several years Laura has been teaching choir and musical theater in several districts in the Puget Sound area, including Franklin Pierce, Bethel, and Renton school districts. Laura is also currently working as an accompanist for the Seattle Girls' Choir. She looks forward to a wonderful, successful year of singing!

Daniel Taylor – Director of bands and 8th grade choir at Twin Falls MS

Daniel is a classically trained pianist with a passion for jazz and music education. After studying at Pierce and Olympic Colleges, he attended Central Washington University and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Music in 2006. Daniel received his Master's Degree in piano and teaching certificate with endorsements in instrumental and choral music in 2012. He student taught at Edmonds-Woodway HS and spent a year teaching their jazz band III students. Before coming to Twin Falls, he was the band director at the Northwest School, a private Seattle school with students 6-12. Throughout his academic career and beyond he has also played professionally as a jazz and classical pianist. His wife and 3-year old son are so

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excited to become a part of the community here in the Snoqualmie Valley and are expecting a second child any minute.

Daniel McCafferty – Director of 6th/7th grade choirs at Twin Falls MS; Director of Vocal Jazz II at MSHS
Daniel has been involved in choir and piano lessons from a very young age. He completed his AA from Green River Community College and received his Bachelor's degree in Music Ed (K-12) from Central Washington in 2013. During his time at CWU, he also improved his jazz piano skills, sang in classical choral groups, and accompanied singers, instrumentalists, and other chorale groups. Daniel also founded and directed an all-women's A Capella group. He student taught at both Auburn Riverside HS and North Tapps MS. This past summer, he directed a middle school musical at Green River Community College. He has always enjoyed being involved in community and professional level vocal performance groups. Daniel looks forward to this year at Twin Falls MS teaching 6th/7th grade choir and music appreciation, as well as becoming a part of the community here in the Valley.

Mount Si High School

Haley Franzwa Isaacs-Director of choirs and theater arts at Mount Si HS
Haley completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Washington and went on to teach at Chief Kanim Middle School for three years. While there, Haley taught 6th, 7th, and 8th grade choir, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band, jazz band, and also directed the musicals. Haley has returned to the Snoqualmie Valley School District this year after taking two years off to earn her Masters Degree in Music Education at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. Haley is a classically trained oboe and piano player and loves singing, dancing, and musical theater. She is excited to be back in the Snoqualmie Valley community, and enjoys working with so many talented musicians, vocalists, and actors/actresses at the high school.

Matt Wenman – Director of bands at Mount Si HS.

Matt Wenman began directing the Band Program at Mount Si in June 2013. Matt graduated from the University of Washington and is completing his Master's in Music/Conducting at Central Washington University. Mr. Wenman was previously the music director at Twin Falls Middle School in SVSD from 2008-2012. He is the director of the 133rd Army Band Jazz Patriots, and plays clarinet in the 133rd Army Band's G7 Dixie Band and concert band. Matt enjoys getting outdoors, sailing on Puget Sound, playing at Boxley's, and getting involved with his church youth group.

Danny Kolke – Jazz director for Twin Falls MS Jazz II and MSHS Jazz II

A jazz pianist himself, Danny recorded his first album at age 19. Danny and Robyn founded the Boxley's Music Fund and restaurant to promote jazz and jazz education. Danny spends early mornings two days a week at Twin Falls and three mornings a week at Mount Si HS. He is also the founder of a software company called Cloudward and has lived here in the valley since 1998 with his wife Robyn and their three children.

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Appendix

There is no curricular strings program offered, but there is an opportunity for string students to perform in an orchestral ensemble in a community program for all ages.

Snoqualmie Valley Strings – Director: Sheila Bateman

Sheila Bateman – Director of Snoqualmie Valley Strings

Sheila studied string music at Brigham Young University, where she earned a Bachelor's in Zoology and studied choral music at Utah State University where she earned a Masters in Ecology. She is an accomplished violinist and vocalist, and has been teaching private violin, piano, and voice lessons for 20 years. She currently holds a teaching certificate in Biology. She is in the process of finishing a music endorsement as well. She founded Snoqualmie Strings in 2009, and enjoys arranging music for it as well as for various choirs she is involved with. She currently directs her region's LDS choir and is the assistant conductor for the newly formed Ensign Chorus, as well as subbing for the Ensign Symphony. She shares her love of music with her five children, who are all actively involved in district orchestras, bands, and choirs. She enjoys backpacking, gardening, and playing games with her kids.

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, middle school and high school. There are also currently 38 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 contribute to the growth of music education and attractiveness of our district to students and parents.

