

Region 18: Curricular Shifts to Support Music Instruction in Grades 4 and 5

Proposed changes to increase access to music and ensemble experiences for all students

Curricular Review: Stage 4, Analysis

Public

Public comments from residents sparked discussion with the music department regarding elementary school music experiences

Friends of Music

Meeting with the K-12 Music Department leader and Central Office triggered research into other school district's elementary music programs and school schedules

Teachers

Input from music teachers indicated that students would benefit from more structured and guaranteed ensemble experiences before they move into grade 6

Current Challenges

Schedule/Time

In order to add **'more music'** to the current elementary schedule, time must be taken from another area, such as academic classes or other Unified Arts courses that meet once/twice per week.

X BLock

X Block is dedicated to multiple activities:

- Intervention
- Music Lessons
- Special Education supports
- Counseling

Schedule/Curricula

The current schedule / curriculum structure does not allow for **guaranteed ensemble experiences** in chorus/instrumental music/band for all students

Goal

Increase access to guaranteed music/ensemble experiences by looping the experiences starting in Grade 4 on a trimester basis.

- Move recorder from grade 4 to grade 3
 - Provide general music, chorus, and instrumental music in grade 4
 - Provide General Music, Instrumental music and chorus to grade 5 students with the option to participate in lessons and an elective band program
 - Grade 5 chorus to participate in the District Choral Festival
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Result

By looping experiences over two years starting in grade 4, students will increase access to music education and ensemble experiences.

- Students begin instrumental music in grade 4 allowing for advanced work starting in fall of grade 5
 - Students have guaranteed choral experiences in grades 4 and 5 culminating in a professional performance
 - All students have the opportunity to participate in an elective band and lessons playing an instrument of choice
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Contact Hours

While the scheduled contact hours stay the same in grades 4 and 5, we are increasing the contact hours in instrumental music and ensemble experiences through a shift in curriculum and trimester sequencing.

- All students get guaranteed chorus instruction in grade 4, 5
 - All students receive early exposure to instrumental music in grade 4
 - All students have the opportunity for a consistent band experience in grade 5
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10 districts contacted regarding academic minutes and music minutes

Proposal developed between Curriculum Office and Music Dept (Stage 1).

Implement trimester instruction in grade 4 with curricular review scheduled for Spring 2020; looping starts in Fall of 2020



Music meeting to discuss data on music programs, R18 music goals/feedback, and current curriculum

Curriculum alignment, evaluation and revision process started (Stages 2,5,6)