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THE WIDEFIELD WAY

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Photo by Jolene Edwards

Venetucci Elementary fifth graders working on rhythms

D3 Music Updates Programming

BY SAMANTHA DAVIS
DISTRICT MUSIC DIRECTOR

For many years, music in Widefield School District 3 (WSD3) has been an important part of every child's education and a source of pride for the Security/Widefield/Fountain community. This year, more than 7,000 Widefield students are participating in music through a comprehensive K-12 curriculum. That curriculum includes general music at the elementary level, as well as choir, orchestra, band, piano, guitar, mariachi, music production and music theory at the secondary level. More than 70 percent of the students at the junior high level choose to participate in at least one music class, while each high school boasts that 35 percent of its student body are young musicians. Students not only love and appreciate the "musical art", but are highly successful in performance because of an emphasis on skill-based learning.

By teaching our music standards and supporting the standards of other content areas, the WSD3 music department helps children express themselves positively and successfully through music. Much has been made in education of teaching "21st century skills" so that students can thrive in a rapidly changing global society. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are essential. Even

state assessments throughout the country are reflecting 21st century skills. It is no longer enough to simply regurgitate correct answers on these assessments. Students must be able to read information, use critical thinking to come up with answers, and explain themselves articulately. The study of music helps individuals become adept at 21st century skills and thinking. Music is the only core subject that is all encompassing, providing direct instruction in math, reading, memory skills, spatial relationships, and even muscle memory and physical education.

Nowhere is the integration of the arts more on display than at Widefield Elementary School of the Arts (WESA). WESA achieved innovation school status by the Colorado Department of Education in 2019. The curriculum for the school features arts integration in classroom learning as well as specialized instruction in drama, music, fine art, and dance. Through collaboration, the arts specialists and classroom teachers combine instruction in the arts and core subjects that develop and concentrate on the whole child and promote a lifelong love of learning.

As we enter a new decade, the music department has added a new and exciting program of musical discovery for secondary students: Music Production. This pathway,

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Photo by Jolene Edwards

Watson Junior High Advanced Orchestra rehearsal



Photo by Jolene Edwards

Mesa Ridge High School Wind Symphony rehearsal

Music Updates

From page 1

recently featured in a story on KRDO Newschannel 13, is available at both Widefield High School and Mesa Ridge High School and is the only one of its kind in Colorado. Students who elect to participate take courses in acoustics, computer music applications, and music audio production in order to prepare for a music business internship and industry certification. This Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway provides students the skills once they leave high school to either continue to a college music production program or enter the workforce. Freshmen and sophomores who are currently in a music ensemble may concurrently enroll in this exciting new opportunity!

We are incredibly proud of the quality of our bands, choirs and orchestras in WSD3. Our ensembles consistently receive superior and excellent ratings at music contests throughout Colorado and the rest of the nation. The marching bands at both high schools have reached Colorado State Bandmasters Association quarter, semi, and finals competitions for a number of years. In addition,

the choir programs at both high schools have performed in New York, NY at venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. This year, the Widefield High School Chamber Strings will be performing in Orlando at the American Strings Teachers Association National Orchestra Festival in March.

Music students in WSD3 have a wide variety of performance opportunities. Here are some that have been available for music students in addition to school programs and concerts this year:

- ◊ Sixth Grade Choir Festival
- ◊ WSD3 Elementary Honor Choir
- ◊ Southern Colorado In-Harmony Festival
- ◊ WSD3 Junior High Honor Choir
- ◊ WSD3 Junior High Honor Band
- ◊ WSD3 Junior High Honor Orchestra
- ◊ Pikes Peak Honor Orchestra
- ◊ Pikes Peak Honor Band and Honor Jazz Band
- ◊ Western State Honor Band
- ◊ All-City Honor Band
- ◊ Adams State Honor Choir
- ◊ Southern Colorado Honor Band, Choir, and Orchestra
- ◊ Middle School All State Choir
- ◊ High School All State Choir, Band & Orchestra

- ◊ CHSAA Solo & Ensemble Festival
- ◊ CHSAA Large Group Festival
- ◊ Numerous Jazz Competitions, including UNC Jazz Festival
- ◊ Colorado Bandmaster Association Marching Band State Finals
- ◊ Winter Percussion sanctioned by the Rocky Mountain Percussion Association
- ◊ Winter Guard sanctioned by the Rocky Mountain Color Guard Association
- ◊ Colorado Springs Children’s Chorale
- ◊ Colorado Springs Youth Symphony

All of the awards, high ratings, and successful performances throughout WSD3 are a product of a highly qualified, passionate music staff that is dedicated to excellence. These talented music educators encourage achievement and instill a love of music in their students. In the age of budgetary woes and “fiscal cliffs,” it is easy for music to be the low man on the totem pole when it comes to financial support. The music staff is fully supported by building level administration, district administration, and the Board of Education who understand the role of arts education in a comprehensive school curriculum. It is no wonder that Widefield, often known as “a best-kept secret,” is out in front as a leader in music education.



Photo by Jolene Edwards

Widefield Elementary School of the Arts kindergarten music class



NOW ENROLLING!

WSD3 MUSIC DEPARTMENT IS ENROLLING NOW FOR CLASSES IN AUGUST 2020.

FOLLOW US ONLINE FOR MORE INFORMATION

 www.wsd3.org/departments/music

 WIDEFIELD D3 MUSIC



Welding Program Offered at the MiLL

BY SAMANTHA BRIGGS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

A new program is taking place at the MiLL (Manufacturing Industry Learning Lab) located in Widefield School District 3 (WSD3). In addition to the manufacturing and construction programs, high school students can now take advanced welding classes.

“The opportunities for metalworkers are numerous and the industries that utilize them are all hurting for experienced candidates to hire. Welding and fabrication skills can provide a great hobby for some and an amazing career for anyone that wants to develop to the professional level,” said Tye Jones, welding instructor at the MiLL and vocational educational instructor at Widefield High School.

According to Jones, the MiLL’s welding shop area provides a facility that is 2-3 times larger than either of the district’s high schools’ shops. Each student will have approximately four-times the number of contact hours spent conducting welding operations in each class than was possible before.

“This equates to gaining higher levels of experience in metalworking and improved quality. When looking for a candidate to fill their positions, experience is one of the top criteria sought after by employers in the industry, and we now have the facility to provide far superior experiences,” said Jones.

Each student is assigned a work booth of their own that incorporates a digital control multi-process stick/MIG/TIG welding machine with individual ventilation system



Photo by Samantha Briggs

Tye Jones, welding instructor at the MiLL, sets up welding stations students will use during class.

and LED work lighting.

Both Mesa Ridge and Widefield high schools currently offer an introductory welding course called Metals 1. Students will now be able to take their skills to the next level with Metals 2 and Metals 3 at the MiLL.

“Each of our courses begin with skill development exercises in various metalworking methods and conclude with a project that each student designs and fabricates

to demonstrate their new skill sets in a practical manner,” said Jones.

This semester, students in the Metals 2 class will improve their techniques in oxy-acetylene torch welding (OAW), computer-guided plasma arc cutting, electric arc/stick welding and wire feed welding. Students who go through the welding program will also learn elements of creating hand-drawn plans, writing up a bill-of-materials, and calculating completion costs.

The MiLL is a national training center created by a unique partnership between Widefield and Peyton school districts. The 46,000 square foot building, located on 4450 Foreign Trade Zone, opened in the fall of 2017 with woods manufacturing and construction classes. The goal of the MiLL is to expand career pathways for students while strengthening Colorado’s workforce. For more information, visit our website at wsd3.org or call 719-391-3595.

Support Our Students

Photo by Shutterstock

BY SAMANTHA BRIGGS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

For more than 25 years, Fountain Valley Scholars (FVS) has awarded students in Widefield School District 3 and Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8 with college scholarships.

FVS is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing scholarships for high-achieving and eligible seniors from D3 and D8 high schools to help them attend the college or university of their choice. We award scholarship recipients each May.

This is not possible without community support. Thankfully, we live in a community that is not only kind and generous, but strives to see our youth excel in education.

Our biggest fundraiser is the annual FVS Golf Tournament held at the Cheyenne Shadows Golf Club on Fort Carson. This year’s tournament is scheduled for Monday, July 20, 2020. We are currently seeking

sponsors and teams for the tournament. Details on sponsorships packages and the event can be found at fountainvalleyscholars.wordpress.com.

There are many ways to get involved with Fountain Valley Scholars:

- **Volunteer!** We meet once a month, usually on a Thursday at 7:30am at the Widefield Administration Building, 1820 Main Street
- **Donate! Online donations:** fountainvalleyscholars.wordpress.com
Mail donations: Fountain Valley Scholars 1820 Main Street Colorado Springs, CO 80911
- **Partner!** Let’s work together to help our students fulfill their educational dreams.

For more information on FVS, please contact Samantha Briggs at 719-391-3000 or Christy McGee at 719-382-1318

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Important Dates

Coding in Action (3-5th)

March 7 & 14, 8:00-4:00 p.m.
Janitell Junior High

Jr. High Honor Band & Orchestra

March 13, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
WHS Auditorium

Battle of the Books

April 2, 2020, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
French Elementary

Coding in Action (6-12th)

April 18, 2020, 8:00-4:00 p.m.
Janitell Junior High

District Art Fair

April 18, 2020, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
French Elementary

District Jazz Festival

May 8, 2020, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
WHS Auditorium

Retirement Recognition

May 12, 2020, 4:00 p.m.
WHS Auditorium

Graduation Dates

Discovery High School

May 15, 2020, 4:00 p.m.
Mesa Ridge High School Auditorium

Widefield High School

May 16, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
WHS Bowers Gym

Mesa Ridge High School

May 18, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
World Arena



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forgets how
to drive.



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