

April 16, 2019

**Fairbanks
Music Advocacy
Committee**

**Annual Report
2018-2019**

Fairbanks Music Advocacy Committee
Annual Report
2018-2019

Cover Letter

Date: April 1, 2019

To: Fairbanks North Star Borough School Board Members

CC: Dr. Karen Gaborik, FNSBSD Music Teachers, FNSBSD Principals

From: Fairbanks Music Advocacy Committee

Subject: Fairbanks North Star Borough School District Annual Report of Music Education

Thank you for taking the time to review our annual report on K-12 Music Education in the FNSBSD. This is our fourth year compiling the annual report, researched and written by the Fairbanks Music Advocacy Committee (MAC), a community-based advocacy group that has worked with music teachers in our district to provide the information for the report. The purpose of this report is to provide continuing information and data regarding the state of music education in the Fairbanks Northstar Borough School District.

The Fairbanks Music Advocacy Committee is open to anyone who believes music is an essential part of our quality of life. Musicians, community members, teachers, administrators, parents, and anyone who is passionate about equal access to music education for all kids are welcome. The current goal is to publicize our existence and educate our members about our principles and mission. We'll know that we've established ourselves as a credible, well-informed, student-focused organization when decision makers come to us to determine the impacts of their decisions before making any changes affecting music education.

We are available to answer any questions, address concerns, or hear comments from you regarding either the content of this report or the Music Advocacy Committee.

Sincerely,

Fairbanks Music Advocacy Committee

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Fairbanks Music Advocacy Committee

2017-2018 Annual Report

Purpose: The purpose of this annual report is to keep administration and school board members informed about the activities and importance of its music programs.

Fairbanks Music Advocacy Committee: An advocacy group made of parents, community members, and music educators who are focused on encouraging the growth of K-12 music education programs for all students in the FNSBSD. It is not a fundraising organization, but it will work with parent or booster groups in support of school music programs.

Committee Mission Statement: Music is a universal language and an essential quality of being human. Each student deserves the opportunity to experience, participate in, and perform music. Through music in our schools we empower our students to develop 21st century skills in order to become productive members of a diverse and changing society. It is our mission to advance a consistent and thriving music program in every school. Music education promotes critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, creativity, initiative, self-direction, leadership, and responsibility.

Principles: Our committee is built on the following principles:

- Our committee is student-centered – we are focused on the impact of any decision on students.
- Our committee's focus is on music education as a unified, district-wide effort – it is not focused on individual schools, special programs, or music directors.
- Our committee is a community-based organization committed to creating long-term positive relationships with key decision makers affecting music education.
- Goals: The primary goal of our coalition is to support music in the curriculum and to promote access to music in the curriculum for all students.

Additional goals include:

- To promote a balanced curriculum that treats music as an equal – not in competition with other subjects.
- To recognize and share information about the positive contributions of our school music programs to our children, our schools, and our community.
- To inform school board members and school administration on district-wide issues related to music.
- To have an ongoing, long-term focus on music in the curriculum.
- To present an annual report to the Fairbanks North Star Borough School Board.

Membership: Anyone who has a passion for music and believes all students should have access to music education.

Focus of Report:

- The focus of this report will be to provide a summary of how many students are involved in music across our district, at which schools, and who is providing instruction.
- A summary of performance highlights and “Good Things” happening in our district.
- Recommendations for improvement.

Plans Forward:

- The annual report will be presented at the end of each school year- growing in scope over time.
- Continue to work with district music educators to develop short and long-term plans for K-12 Music Education.

Resources:

John L. Benham, Music Advocacy (Rowman and Littlefield, 2011)

Alaska Music Educators Association: www.alaskamea.ning.com

Alaska School Activities Association: <http://asaa.org/activities/music/>

Alaska State Council on the Arts: <https://education.alaska.gov/aksca/>

Alaska State Education Standards: <https://education.alaska.gov/akstandards/standards/>

Washington Music Educators Association: www.wmea.org

National Association for Music Education: www.nafme.org

Music Teacher Directory

Below is a table of contact information for every music teacher in the FNSBSD.

Elementary School

School	Teacher	School Number	District Email
Anderson (K-2)	Nichole Lawrence (Gen. Music) (.5 FTE)	907-372-2167	nichole.lawrence
Anne Wien	Meta Bravos (Gen. Music) (1 FTE) Sue Waltman (Orch) (.3 FTE) Kendi Lesley (Band) (.3 FTE)	907-451-7500	meta.bravos sue.waltman kendi.lesley
Crawford (3-6)	Nichole Lawrence (Gen. Music) (.5 FTE) Theresa VanHyning (Band/Orch) (.2/.2 FTE)	907-372-3306	nichole.lawrence theresa.vanhyning
Denali	Connie Oba (Gen. Music/Orch) (.7/.3 FTE) Thomas Ramos (Band) (.2 FTE)	907-452-2456	connie.oba thomas.amos
Hunter	Taylor Lee (Gen. Music) (1 FTE) Campbell Longworth (Orch) (.3 FTE) Thomas Ramos (Band) (.2 FTE)	907-457-5775	taylor.lee campbell.longworth thomas.amos
Joy	Doug Lange (Gen. Music/Band) Sunnifa Deehr (Orch) (.3 FTE)	907-456-5469	doug.lange sunnifa.deehr
Midnight Sun	Barbara Quaille (Gen. Music) (1 FTE) Katie Bates (Orch) (.3 FTE) Liesl Wietgreffe (Band) (.3 FTE)	907-488-0134	barbara.quaille katie.bates liesl.wietgreffe
Nordale	Eileen Gillette (Gen. Music/Orch) Allison Mogensen (Band) (.3 FTE)	907-452-2696	eileen.gillette allison.mogensen
North Pole	Jose Lopez-Ramos (Gen. Music) (1 FTE) Katie Bates (Orch) (.3 FTE) Liesl Wietgreffe (Band) (.3 FTE)	907-488-2286	jose.lopez-amos katie.bates liesl.wietgreffe
Pearl Creek	Kristi McEwen (Gen. Music) (1 FTE) Sunnifa Deehr (Orch) (.3 FTE) Allison Mogensen (Band) (.3 FTE)	907-479-4234	kristi.mcewen sunnifa.deehr allison.mogensen
Salcha	Courtney Miklos (Gen. Music/Orch/Band) (.5 FTE)	907-479-3267	courtney.miklos
Ticasuk Brown	Melanie Bieniek (Gen. Music) (1 FTE) Katie Bates (Orch) (.3 FTE) Liesl Wietgreffe (Band) (.3 FTE)	907-488-3200	melanie.bieniek katie.bates liesl.wietgreffe

Elementary School (Continued)

School	Teacher	School Number	District Email
University Park	Anne Kettle (Gen. Music) (1 FTE) Sue Waltman (Orch) (.3 FTE) Kendi Lesley (Band) (.3 FTE)	907-479-6963	anne.kettle sue.waltman kendi.lesley
Weller	Nathan Arnold (Gen. Music) (1 FTE) Sunnifa Deehr (Orch) (.3 FTE) Allison Mogensen (Band) (.3 FTE)	907-457-1629	nathan.arnold sunnifa.deehr allison.mogensen
Woodriver	Lucile Hackett (Gen. Music) (1 FTE) Sue Waltman (Orch) (.3 FTE) Kendi Lesley (Band) (.3 FTE)	907-479-4211	lucile.hackett sue.waltman kendi.lesley

K-8 Schools

School	Teacher	School Number	District Email
Arctic Light	Frances Lupton (1st Sem Gen) Stephanie Turner (2nd Sem Gen) (1 FTE) Craig Brennan (Orch) (.5 FTE) James Castleberry (Band) (.5 FTE)	907-356-2038	(Francis retired) stephanie.turner craig.brennan james.castleberry
Barnette Magnet	Gwendolyn Brazier (Gen/Choir) (.5 FTE) Thomas Ramos (Band/Orch) (.5 FTE)	907 456-6072	gwendolyn.brazier thomas.ramos
Ladd	Kristina Mulready (Gen. Music) (1 FTE) Craig Brennan (Orch) (.5 FTE) James Castleberry (Band) (.5 FTE)	907-451-1700	kristina.mulready craig.brennan james.castleberry
Two Rivers	Trevor Adams (Gen. Music/Band/Orch) (.4 FTE)	907-488-6616	trevor.adams

Middle/Jr. High School

School	Teacher	School Number	District Email
Ben Eielson (7-12)	Theresa VanHyning (band/orch/choir) (.6 FTE)	907-372-3110	theresa.vanhyning
North Pole	Katrina Nore (choir/orchestra) (1 FTE) Todd Wienke (band/guitar) (1 FTE)	907-488-2271	katrina.nore todd.wienke
Randy Smith	Robert Lockwood (band/orch/choir) (1 FTE)	907-458-7600	robert.lockwood
Ryan	Campbell Longworth (band/orch/choir) (1 FTE)	907-452-4751	campbell.longworth

Tanana	Simon Traynor (band/orch/choir) (1 FTE)	907-452-8145	simon.traynor
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High School

School	Teacher	School Number	District Email
Ben Eielson (7-12)	Theresa VanHyning (band/orch/choir) (.6 FTE)	907-372-3110	theresa.vanhyning
Lathrop	Carolyn Soderlund (choir/guitar) (1 FTE) Tristan Hovest (band/orchestra) (1 FTE)	907-456-7794	carolyn.soderlund tristan.hovest
North Pole	MaryCatherine Moroney (choir) (1 FTE) Gwendolyn Brazier (band/orchestra) (.4 FTE)	907-488-3761	marycatherine.moroney gwendolyn.brazier
West Valley	Lucas Clooten (band/choir/steel pan) (1 FTE) Trevor Adams (orchestra) (.4 FTE)	907-479-4221	lucas.clooten trevor.adams

Districtwide

Teacher	Schools	Subject	Email
Trevor Adam	Two Rivers (K-8) West Valley High	Gen. Music/Band/Orch. (.5 FTE) Orchestra (.4 FTE) .1 FTE for Travel	trevor.adams
Katie Bates	North Pole Elementary Midnight Sun Ticasuk Brown	Orchestra (.3 FTE) Orchestra (.3 FTE) Orchestra (.3 FTE) .1 FTE for Travel	katie.bates
Gwendolyn Brazier	Barnette Magnet (K-8) North Pole High	General Music (.5 FTE) Band/Orch. (.4 FTE) .1 FTE for Travel	gwendolyn.brazier
James Castleberry	Arctic Light Elem. Ladd Elementary	Band (.5 FTE) Band (.5 FTE) FTE includes Travel	james.castleberry
Sunnifa Deehr	Weller Elementary Pearl Creek Elementary Joy Elementary	Orchestra (.3 FTE) Orchestra (.3 FTE) Orchestra (.3 FTE) .1 FTE for Travel	sunnifa.deehr
Eileen Gillette	Nordale Elementary	Gen. Music (.7 FTE) Orchestra (.3 FTE) (no travel FTE)	eileen.gillette
Doug Lange	Joy Elementary	Gen. Music (.7 FTE) Band (.3 FTE) (no travel FTE)	doug.lange

Districtwide (continued)

Teacher	Schools	Subject	Email
Campbell Longworth	Ryan Middle Hunter Elementary	Band/Orch/Choir (.7 FTE) Orchestra (.3 FTE) no travel FTE	campbell.longworth
Kendi Lesley	Anne Wien Elementary U-Park Elementary Woodriver Elementary	Band (.3 FTE) Band (.3 FTE) Band (.3 FTE) .1 FTE for Travel	kendi.lesley
Allison Mogenson	Nordale Elementary Pearl Creek Elementary Weller Elementary	Band (.3 FTE) Band (.3 FTE) Band (.3 FTE) .1 FTE for Travel	allison.mogenson
Connie Oba	Denali Elementary	General Music (.7 FTE) Orchestra (.3 FTE) no travel FTE	connie.oba
Thomas Ramos	Barnette Magnet Denali Elementary Hunter Elementary	Band/Orchestra (.5 FTE) Band (.2 FTE) Band (.2 FTE) .1 FTE for Travel	thomas.ramos
Theresa VanHyning	Crawford Elementary Ben Eielson	Band/Orchestra (.4 FTE) Band/Choir/Orch. (.6 FTE) no travel FTE	theresa.vanhyning
Sue Waltman	Anne Wien Elementary U-Park Elementary Woodriver Elementary	Orchestra (.3 FTE) Orchestra (.3 FTE) Orchestra (.3 FTE) .1 FTE for Travel	sue.waltman
Liesl Wietgreffe	Midnight Sun Elem. Ticasuk Brown Elem. North Pole Elementary	Band (.3 FTE) Band (.3 FTE) Band (.3 FTE) .1 FTE for Travel	liesl.wietgreffe

Charter Schools

School	Teacher	Phone	Email
Chinook (4-8)	n/a	(907) 452-5020	n/a
Effie Kokrine (7-12)	n/a	(907) 474-0958	n/a
Watershed (K-8)	n/a	(907) 374- 9350	n/a

Boreal Sun (K-8)	n/a	(907) 452-5444	n/a
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Teacher's Biographies

Elementary School Teachers

Kendi Adams teaches band at **University Park, Woodriver, and Anne Wien Elementary Schools**. Kendi is from Idaho; she graduated from the University of Idaho after completing a BMUS degree in Music Education: instrumental/vocal. Go Vandals! She moved to Alaska the next year thinking she would teach in Alaska, have an adventure for a couple years and move back to the northwest lower 48. Well, eleven years later, she's still here. In addition to her band duties, Mrs. Adams also teaches an after school jazz band at both UPark and Woodriver. As for her own musical pursuits, Mrs. Adams enjoys collaborating with fellow music teachers and friends on various projects and is an active musician at her church. She is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the Alaska Music Educators Association.

Trevor Adams is a composer, violist, and music educator with a Bachelor's in music education and a Bachelor of Arts in music composition from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Currently, he is the orchestra director at **West Valley High School** and teaches band, orchestra, and general musical at **Two Rivers**. During his time at UAF, he has played with The Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra, The Arctic Chamber Orchestra, The Northern Lights String Orchestra, Opera Fairbanks, and Fairbanks Light Opera Theater. In both the 2011- 2012 and 2014-2015 academic years, Trevor received the Most Outstanding Music Major Award from the College of Liberal Arts for his hard work and dedication to the program. He has taught at the UAF Summer Music Academy, the UAF String Fling, coached the North Star Strings, and conducted the FYO String Orchestra. He is a current member of the Nanook String Quartet which regularly gigs, performs for events, and gives concerts. In February, 2015, he put on a recital of his own compositions in which he conducted and performed in, and in May, 2015, his original score for *The Muse* was premiered at UAF's "Thaw Out Film Festival". Trevor has attended the 2013 American String Teachers Association National Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, the 2014 Fairbanks Suzuki Institute while taking the Violin/Viola Book 1 training course, and the 2012, 2014, and 2018 Alaska Music Educators Association Conferences. Recent projects include a recital of new compositions given in May of 2017 and a collaborative arts/science presentation at the American Geophysical Union Conference in New Orleans, LA. He is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the Alaska Music Educators Association.

Nathan Arnold was born and raised in Alaska. After graduating from Lathrop High School in 1995 he began studying classical guitar while working at the University of Alaska. In 2004 he left Fairbanks to study music education at the University of Idaho. After graduating he returned to Fairbanks in 2009 and accepted a position with the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. He taught at Barnette Magnet School for three years before moving to North Pole Elementary, where he taught general music, guitar and choir for four years. He currently teaches general music, guitar and choir at **Weller Elementary**. In addition to general music, choir and current trends in music education, his classes offer students the opportunity to study the guitar and ukulele. His guitar students have performed with Orff Ensembles as well as Orchestras. Mr. Arnold is Level 1

Orff-Schulwerk certified. Mr. Arnold is a guitarist who has performed in a wide variety of styles and venues. From popular styles to classical and jazz, he has been an active participant in making music where he lives.

Nathan Arnold (continued) He teaches guitar at the annual UAF Summer Music Academy and also maintains an active private studio of students in the Fairbanks area, instructing a wide variety of students and styles. Each summer he instructs the Kids Music Camp for UAF Summer Sessions. He also serves as the Worship Director for Harvest Church. Mr. Arnold maintains active memberships in NAFME, AMEA, Alaska Orff Chapter and AOSA.

Katie Bates teaches orchestra at **Midnight Sun, Ticasuk-Brown, and North Pole Elementary Schools**. Katie began playing piano in the fourth grade and added violin between sixth and seventh grade. Violin was her primary instrument at St. Cloud State University. She has a B.S. in comprehensive Music Education from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota and a Master's in Education from Cambridge College in Massachusetts. Katie has taught for almost forty-four years (next spring it will be almost forty-five years), although it has not all been in the public schools. She has taught orchestra/strings, guitar, piano, general music, and she has taught some of the band instruments as well. Over the years, she has participated in community orchestras, pit orchestras, played in churches, and currently plays viola in the Northern Lights String Orchestra at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Katie composes music for her students to play at their concerts. One of her sons is working on a DMA in Music Theory and Composition. Two of her former students are now teaching orchestral strings in this school district. She is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the Alaska Music Educators Association.

Melanie Bieniek teaches general music and choir at **Ticasuk Brown Elementary School**. Melanie is a product of the Fairbanks School District. She started playing the baritone in the fourth grade at Weller Elementary and then later the euphonium at Ryan and Lathrop. After graduating from high school, she attended the Conservatory of Music at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA. There she earned a Bachelor's of Music degree in Music Education. After graduation, she began teaching band and general music with the Linden Unified School District. During her time in California she continued playing her euphonium in Valley Concert Band, a professional concert band in the San Joaquin Valley. After her fourth year with the Linden School District, she returned to Fairbanks and has been teaching General Music at Ticasuk Brown since 2005. While teaching, she completed her Master's Degree in Curriculum (Arts Integration) through Lesley University in 2013. She currently plays in the Fairbanks Community Band and the University Wind Symphony. Melanie is a member of the National Association for Music Education, the Alaska State President for AΔK, Board of Directors for FEA, FEA Teacher Rights Committee...and the list goes on! *Awards Received:* New Teacher of the Year, BP Teacher of Excellence, & AMEA Music Advocate of the Year.

Meta Bravos teaches general music at **Anne Wien School**. Meta was born in Chicago, Illinois. She began playing violin in 4th grade, and later switched to piano. Through her junior and senior years attending Sullivan High School, she was totally committed to participating in her choir program. After graduating from Sullivan, she attended Harper Junior College, and later, Adams State College, Colorado, graduating in 1976, earning her BMUS in organ performance, and an inspiration to study further in sacred music. Once home again in Chicago, she started the children's choir at her home church, St. Andrews, and later went back to school, DePaul University, to earn her teaching certification in music, completing her studies in 1982. Ms. Bravos moved to Alaska in October, 1982, and began her teaching career in Kake, Alaska in 1983. Since then, she has had the

pleasure to have taught and lived in the communities of Anchorage, Bethel, Nome, Willow and Fairbanks, as well as a year back in Illinois, with the North Boone Community School District 200, Poplar Grove, Illinois.

Meta Bravos (continued) In Fairbanks, Ms. Bravos sang with the Alaska Chamber Chorale for several years, while also participating on the Boards of Directors of Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre for three years, and Opera Fairbanks for nine years.

Craig Brennan teaches orchestra at **Arctic Light and Ladd Elementary Schools**. He is a first-year teacher from Snohomish, Washington. He received his degree in Music Education from Western Washington University in 2016. He has been playing trombone since 2002 as well as participating in a few marimba ensembles. Before attending Western Washington University, Craig spent two seasons in the Arizona State University Sun Devil Marching Band, where he had the opportunity to play as part of the halftime show at the 2011 Maaco Bowl in Las Vegas along with all home games during the regular season. His immediate family – mom, dad, and one sister (also a teacher), live in Washington.

Gwendolyn P. Brazier teaches general music at **Barnette Magnet School** as well as band and orchestra at **North Pole High School**. Gwendolyn began teaching for the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District in 2009, at Salcha Elementary School. Over the last several years she has added a Kindergarten violin program to each of her school's and a musical theater class at Barnette Magnet. She was the after school advisor for the West Valley High School Thespian Drama Troupe #628 from 2011 till 2017. She has stage or music directed for North Pole, Lathrop and West Valley High Schools. Her talents do not end in the classroom. Ms. Brazier is an avid Fairbanks arts community supporter and performer. She has performed as a bassist in the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra, Northern Light String Orchestra, North Star Strings and Fairbanks Community Band. She performs as a percussionist with the Fairbanks Community Band and vocalist with the Community Jazz Band. Gwendolyn has been a featured guest soloist and regular choral member of Choir of the North, Alaska Camerata and directed the Madrigal Singers, FLOT Showcase and Rainbow Choir. She has directed and performed in numerous stage productions throughout the Fairbanks theater community, to include Fairbanks Drama Association, Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre, Fairbanks Shakespeare Theatre, UAF Theater and Film, Fairbanks Opera as well as the University of Alaska Student Drama Association. Currently, she is a founding member and board president for The Interior Independent Theatre and performs with a popular 70's funk band. Gwendolyn is a member of the National Association of Music Educators, American Choral Directors Association, American Band Directors Association and the Alaska chapter of the American Band Directors Association, Alaska Music Educators Association. She is the current treasurer for the Alaska Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association.

James Castleberry currently teaches band at **Arctic Light and Ladd**. James Castleberry was born in Jacksonville, FL. He spent his grade school years in Missoula, MT before moving back to Florida at the beginning of his seventh grade year. James discovered clarinet in 5th grade, adding saxophones in ninth grade and percussion in eleventh grade. During his senior year of high school he auditioned for the U.S. Army Band and was accepted. He enlisted in October of 1988 and spent the next twenty-one years performing for Soldiers and Civilians in fourteen different countries. James has performed with many American artists such as Blake Shelton, Wayne Newton, Chris Isaac, and Aaron Tippin, as well as local artists in America, Asia, and Europe. During his twenty-one years of service James completed his Bachelor's degree in History through University of Maryland and, following his retirement in 2009, he completed his teaching certification from the

University of Alaska. James was immediately hired to teach band and orchestra at Crawford and Salcha elementary schools and taught in the Fairbanks school district for the next three years.

James Castleberry (continued) After completing his Master's degree in Instructional Technology in 2013, James moved with his family to Bandon, Oregon where he taught Social Studies and Band at Coquille Jr-Sr High for two years before returning to Fairbanks in 2015. He currently teaches band at Woodriver Elementary and both band and orchestra at Crawford and Salcha Elementary schools. James enjoys performing occasionally with members of the Army Band, Alaska Blaskapelle, and other local musicians.

Sunnifa Deehr teaches at **Weller, Pearl Creek and Joy Elementary Schools**. She began violin with the first Suzuki group in Fairbanks at the age of 5. After receiving a master's in landscape design, Sunnifa discovered that she had no real talent at that, so she decided to help build a brewery (Silver Gulch) before going back to school for music education. Sunnifa has played and traveled extensively with the Arctic Chamber Orchestra and Fairbanks Symphony. She is a certified Suzuki instructor, with past experience conducting group lessons and teaching privately. Sunnifa has also been a conductor of the string orchestra (the youngest group of the Fairbanks Youth Orchestras). She spent 2 years teaching general music at Anderson before moving to Choir and Orchestra at Tanana Middle, as well as elementary orchestra at Joy and Nordale. She is a member of NAFME, ASTA and the Suzuki Association of the Americas.

Eileen Gillette teaches general music and orchestra at **Nordale Elementary School**. Eileen was born in Ft. Benning, Georgia and grew up as an Army brat. She began to play the flute in 6th grade and became involved in band and choir at Lathrop High School when her family moved to Fairbanks, Alaska. After high school, Eileen began her Music Education degree at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and completed it at Kansas University in 2007. After moving back to Alaska, she began working for the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District as an elementary band and orchestra teacher. Currently in her 12th year of teaching, she switched gears last year and is teaching general music and orchestra at her school. Over the years she has enjoyed playing in the Fairbanks Community Band, Fairbanks Flutists, the Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre pit orchestra, and singing in the Aurora Women's Chorale. She has also worked in the community as a music director/instructor for FLOT Jr. and UAF Summer Music Academy. She is married with a lovely daughter, Kiaya, and two dogs. She is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the Alaska Music Educators Association.

Lucile Hackett teaches general music and choir at **Woodriver Elementary School**. Lucile hails from Grand Rapids, Michigan. She sang, played oboe and piano in high school and majored in voice at Indiana University, where she earned her BME with a teaching minor in English in 1991. After teaching one year of high school choir and English in Michigan, she moved to Fairbanks, where she has taught General Elementary Music for the past 26 years, including Hunter, Arctic Light, Two Rivers, and currently Woodriver Elementary. In 1996 she earned her M.A. in American Literature from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Ms. Hackett is a member of the National Association for Music Education, Alaska Music Educators Association, and the American Orff-Schulwerk Association. She has served on the boards of both the Alaska Music Educators Association and Alaska Orff Chapter boards, and has performed with Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre, Opera Fairbanks, and Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival. She is a member of the gospel vocal group the Visionaries, and the choral director at University Community Presbyterian Church, and is married with three children.

Anne Kettle is currently the General Music teacher at **University Park Elementary School**. Ms. Kettle is a mezzo-soprano from Potomac, Montana. She earned her Bachelor degree in music education from the University of Montana in 2004 and completed her Masters in School Counseling in August, 2018. Ms. Kettle has taught music for 13 years, and is in her 6th year with the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. She has had the opportunity to teach general music, beginning band and orchestra, middle and high school choir and is enjoying the switch to general music.. She holds Kodaly level I certification, and is very passionate about integrating social-emotional learning into the music curriculum in a trauma-aware framework. Ms. Kettle enjoys performing with Opera Fairbanks when her schedule allows.

Doug Lange teaches general music and band at **Joy Elementary School**. Doug Lange is a music educator with more than 27 years of experience teaching students from pre-K through 12th grade in Oregon and Alaska, including Unalaska, Nome and Fairbanks. Mr. Lange studied at the University of Montana and Warner Pacific University and holds a masters from Pepperdine University. Being a saxophonist, Mr. Lange has played in jazz groups since the age of 13 and was a founding member of the Fairbanks Community Jazz Band as well as one of its directors. Mr. Lange also frequently sings in the chorus of Opera Fairbanks productions with his wife and 6 children. Being an advocate for lifelong arts education, Mr. Lange serves on the board of the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival.

José L. López-Ramos is currently teaching General Music at **North Pole Elementary**. He joined the Fairbanks School District teaching band and orchestra at Crawford Elementary as well as band, orchestra and choir at Eielson Jr./Sr. High School. He comes to us from Puerto Rico and is fluent in both English and Spanish. He graduated from University of Puerto Rico in 2003 with a Degree in Music & History Education. From 2000-2006 was a Low Brass Instructor of the Bayamon Municipal Band Program and member of Bayamon Philharmonic. During this time, he also played Caribbean Popular Music as a freelance player. From 2003-2006 Mr. Lopez taught at Jesus Sanchez Erazo Middle School as a Full-Time teacher. From 2003-2005 he worked for the Puerto Rico Corporation for the Musical Arts as a Low Brass Instructor and General Music in the low-income housing projects. In 2006 Mr. Lopez, following his grandfather and father's footsteps, deciding to serve in the United States Army in his best capacity as an Army Bandsman. In 2011 the Army assigned him as a trombonist to the 9th Army Band in Fort Wainwright, Alaska. He and his wife Jacky enjoyed living in Alaska so much that they decided to stay in this beautiful land. After 11.5 years of service, SGT Lopez finishes his time in the Army and decided to serve the Fairbanks community as a Music Teacher. He started working for Fairbanks School District in November of 2017. Mr. Lopez is also the Low Brass instructor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks since 2015 and the Director of the Fairbanks Community Jazz Band. He has 2 boys that are also music students in the Music Programs in North Pole. He enjoys planting, gardening, woodworking as well as RV travel during the summer.

Francis Lupton teaches general music at **Arctic Light Elementary School** and has been an active member of the Fairbanks music education and performing arts community for over 30 years. She received her music education k-12 degree at University of Alaska Fairbanks and has taught music for the FNSBSD for over 27 years. Currently teaching at Arctic Light Elementary School Ft. Wainwright, she is also the choir director for the First United Methodist Church, a position she has held for over 26 years. She has had the privilege of being state president for the American Choral Directors Association and has enjoyed being involved with Fairbanks Light Opera Theater in many ways, from being on the board of directors, to performing chorus and leading roles, to serving as vocal and orchestra director. Francis has taught voice and guitar to all ages.

Francis Lupton (continued) She has taught at Title One schools for many years and has had the pleasure of teaching music to ALL students, including many children as well as adults with “extra special qualities” and learning needs. She feels music is a universal equalizer for all types of learners and a perfect way to expand each and every person’s aesthetic enjoyment! It was a privilege and an honor for her to be a presenter at Fairbanks’ “Arts are Exceptional” Summer Institute. That summer’s focus was on teaching SPED teachers how to integrate the arts in the classroom. She is a member of NAFME and AMEA.

Kristi McEwen teaches general music, pre-k through sixth grade, at **Pearl Creek Elementary School** in Fairbanks, Alaska. She has been teaching music at the elementary and middle school levels in the FNSB School District since 1999. She sponsors Pearl Creek DRUM, a percussion and Orff instrument ensemble.

Kristi is Level I and Level II Orff-Schulwerk certified and is a member of the Alaska Orff Chapter, the American Orff-Schulwerk Association and National Association for Music Education. She received her Master’s in Education Curriculum and Instruction, Integrated Teaching Through the Arts from Lesley University, and her Bachelor’s in Music Education from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Kristi serves on the Fairbanks Education Association Human and Civil Rights Committee and Multi-ethnic Committee, and the FNSBSD Alaska Native Education Parent Advisory Committee. Born and raised in Alaska, Kristi enjoys sharing her Alaska Native heritage with her students through Alaska Native music, dance, and storytelling. She loves spending time outdoors with her husband, Malcolm, and beautiful son, Luke.

Courtney Miklos teaches general music, band orchestra, physical education and math at **Salcha Elementary School**. Courtney was born and raised in Norfolk, VA. She began playing trumpet in 6th grade and added oboe in high school. After graduating from Maury High School in 1997, she attended Brevard College in North Carolina where she earned her BA in Music in 2001. From there she moved to University of Alaska Fairbanks, in 2002, and earned her Masters degree in music composition in 2005 and her BM in Education in 2006. Ms. Miklos worked as a substitute teacher in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District until taking the Music/PE teacher position at Salcha Elementary in 2014. Courtney is an active performer in the Fairbanks community ensembles and enjoys running, curling, and other outdoor activities. She is a member of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association and a Fairbanks Regional Representative of the Alaska Orff Chapter.

Allison Mogenson teaches at **Nordale, Weller, and Pearl Creek Elementary Schools**. Allison was born and raised in Chugiak, Alaska. She started playing the trumpet in 6th grade. After graduating from Chugiak High school in 2002 she went on to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks where she studied under Dr. Karen Gustafson and Rachel Eply and graduated with a Bachelors of Music; Music education k-12, and a Bachelors of Arts in Music, she also earned many credits in French and Advanced Wilderness Leadership. In 2009 she began working for the FNSBSD where she taught elementary band at Weller, Denali and Pearl Creek elementary schools. Each spring she is invited to teach wilderness survival and Alaskan skills at Twin bears camp to 5th and 6th graders. Before working for the FNSBSD Allison worked and taught at the UAF summer music academy for 7 years. She recently traveled to the international trumpet guild where she performed with a trumpet ensemble under the direction of Dr. Karen Gustafson of Red Deer college in Alberta Canada. Allison is a professional musician and has performed in Italy, Canada, Washington state, Washington D.C, Maine, Virginia, California, and all over Alaska. Each spring Allison has put together the “Elementary invasion” where elementary musicians from around the district get to spend a day at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and participate in group lessons, listen to a performance by the University of Alaska Fairbanks ensembles, and they even get to sit in with the UAF students and play in the ensemble with them.

Kristina Mulready teaches general music at **Ladd Elementary**. Originally from Juneau, she received her BM ed. at UAF and Masters in Education from the University of San Diego. She has taught in Fairbanks 16 years, Haines 3 years, Tok 3 years, and a semester in Glennallen. She supports her students' learning by trying to incorporate their interests into what she teaches so that it is relevant to her students. She also does her best to teach to as many different learning styles as she can so students may be successful in whatever type of music groups they may choose to participate in. Ms. Mulready's goal as a music educator is, and always will be, to instill a lifelong love of music. She is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the Alaska Music Educators Association.

Connie Oba teaches general music, choir and orchestra at **Denali Elementary School**. Connie was born and raised in Montana. Her first instrument was the piano, followed by the flute in the school band. It was her high school music teacher who inspired her to pursue singing. She received her B.A. in education from the University of Montana, then toured the western United States as a director/actor for the Missoula Children's Theater. It was during this adventure when she realized she had a knack and a love for teaching music to kids. After moving to Fairbanks in 1990 with her husband, she received her Master of Arts Degree in music (vocal performance). She has a Level I Kodaly Certification from Seattle Pacific University. She has taught elementary general music, high school choir, and now resides at Denali Elementary where she teaches K-6 general music. This is her 22nd year of teaching music. Connie has performed with Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre, Fairbanks Drama Association, Fairbanks Shakespeare Theater, University of Alaska vocal ensembles, and adjudicates at regional and state music festivals. She is also the music director at the Fairbanks Lutheran Church, a member of the National Association for Music Education, and is the immediate past president of the Alaska Music Educators Association.

Barbara Quaille teaches general Music at **Midnight Sun Elementary School**, was originally from the east coast. She went to college in Washington DC where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education, followed by a Master of Music in Organ Performance. She spent 30 fulfilling years teaching music and all subjects to various combinations of grades 1-8 in a private education system, along with teaching piano lessons at her home studio, accompanying church choirs, and serving as church organist for various churches. She is now in the 4th year teaching for the FNSBSD along with being a church pianist/accompanist.

Thomas Ramos teaches band and orchestra at **Barnette Magnet School** and elementary band at **Denali and Hunter Elementary Schools**. Thomas is originally from Texas and is currently stationed at Eielson Air Force Base with his family. He is proud to be part of a military family and looks forward to where the winds will take them next.

Stephanie Turner teaches general music at **Arctic Light Elementary School**. She graduated from Florida State University with a degree in bachelor in arts in Music. Her principal instrument is clarinet and alto sax. Once graduating Stephanie was hired in Baxley Ga, to be the middle school band director and assistant band director. Stephanie enrolled in an alternative certification program and taught there for 6 years. After getting married she moved to Fort Hood, Texas where her husband, Thomas Turner was stationed. Stephanie was hired at Duncan Elementary to teach General Music pre-K-5th grade she taught there for two years, and Douse Elementary for one year. The army relocated them to Fort Wainwright, Alaska and Stephanie is working at Arctic Light Elementary.

Sue Waltman teaches orchestra at **Anne Wein, University Park and Woodriver Elementary Schools**. Sue was born in Seattle and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. She started playing the piano in 4th grade and then started playing the cello when her school offered it in 6th grade. She graduated from East Anchorage High school in 1999 to attend Wheaton College in Wheaton, IL to study music education. She then returned home to Anchorage to teach beginning and high school orchestra for the Anchorage School District. After a year, she decided to pursue a degree in music therapy and headed to New York City to study music therapy at New York University. After completing her Masters in music therapy she returned to Anchorage again and began working at a special needs school for the Anchorage School District. After four years she got married and moved to the Fairbanks North Star area and started teaching band and orchestra for the Fairbanks North Star School District. Ms. Waltman is an active performer and teacher in the Fairbanks community. She has played with the Fairbanks Symphony, directed the cello choir for the Fairbanks Suzuki School of Talent and has a home studio where she is teaching suzuki cello. She is also a board-certified music therapist always looking for opportunities to help others through music.

Liesl Wietgrefe teaches band at **Midnight Sun, North Pole, and Ticasuk Brown Elementary Schools**. Liesl attended high school and college in southwest Wisconsin and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in 2004. During college she was the drum major for the Marching Pioneers for two seasons and won the school's concerto competition on Soprano Saxophone in 2002. Mrs. Wietgrefe has taught in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District for 14 years as a music teacher at Hunter Elementary, Randy Smith Middle School, West Valley High School and the three schools she currently teaches at. She has taught band, jazz band, choir, steel pan, orchestra, general music and world drumming. She received the Yale Distinguished Music Educator of the Year Award in 2013, was named to School Band and Orchestra Magazine "50 Directors Who Make a Difference" list in 2012 and has been nominated for the BP Teacher of Excellence award. Mrs. Wietgrefe enjoys accompanying her church choir, cooking and having jam sessions with her family in her free time. She is married and has 3 daughters aged 12, 10 and 7.

Theresa VanHying teaches at **Crawford Elementary and Eielson Middle/Senior High**. She is a recent graduate of UAF with a degree in Music education. She plays Horn for a variety of ensembles around town including the Fairbanks Symphony.

Teacher's Biographies

Jr. High & Middle School Teachers

Gwendolyn P. Brazier teaches middle school choir, ukulele and piano at **Barnette Magnet School** (*see Elementary Music School Teacher Biographies for more information*).

Robert Lockwood teaches band, choir, orchestra, guitar, and jazz band at **Randy Smith Middle School**. Robert (Bobb) was born in Central Wisconsin and raised in the suburbs of Minneapolis, MN. From a very young age, music was always an important part of Bobb's life. After attending St. Anthony Village High School, he earned an Associate of Arts degree from Anoka Ramsey Community College before attending the University of Wisconsin - River Falls, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education. Mr. Lockwood moved to Alaska in 2008 to take a job with the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. Mr. Lockwood is an active performer in the Fairbanks Community. He has played euphonium in the Fairbanks community band, guitar/mandolin for the Fairbanks Light Opera Theater, tuba in the UAF symphonic band, and is currently one of the conductors for the Fairbanks Youth Symphony organization. Mr. Lockwood was selected as a BP Teacher of Excellence in 2013.

Campbell Longworth is currently in his fourth year teaching band, orchestra, choir and jazz band at **Ryan Middle School** and also teaches orchestra **Hunter Elementary**. He was born and raised in Petersburg, Alaska. he began playing trumpet in 6th grade and played through high school in pep band, concert band, and jazz band, adding choir his senior year. After graduating from Petersburg High School in 2008, he attended University of Alaska Fairbanks where he earned his Bachelor's in Music Education in 2015..

Mr. Longworth is an active performer in the Fairbanks Community. He enjoys playing and performing in the Community Band, FLOT, Accordion Club, North Star Strings, the Fairbanks Shape Note Group, and Opera Fairbanks. He also teaches The Youth Wind Band sponsored by the Fairbanks Youth Orchestras, and often collaborates with other music teachers by playing in the pit for musicals, or in the pep band at West Valley.

Katrina Nore teaches choir and orchestra at **North Pole Middle School**. She grew up in the music programs of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District singing in choirs and playing in orchestra. She attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks and has a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education K-12. Her primary instrument is the viola, though she grew up playing violin all through high school. Katrina has played in the Arctic Chamber Orchestra and the Fairbanks Symphony and has played in several Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre performances. Katrina began teaching in Seward, Alaska doing K-12 music and has previously taught at Ben Eielson Jr/Sr High School. This is her 5th year teaching music.

Simon Traynor teaches band, orchestra and choir at **Tanana Middle School**. He was raised in the Northwoods of Wisconsin making maple syrup in his family's sugar bush. At UW-River Falls, his main music emphasis was trumpet, but he sought as many music performing opportunities he could find: bands, jazz, orchestra, choirs, brass and other small ensembles and chamber music. Simon moved to Alaska to teach beginning band through 8th grade band. He currently teaches band, orchestra and choir at Tanana Middle School. Fairbanks has been a great place for Simon to begin Irish fiddling and Scottish piping. A regular performer with the Fairbanks Jazz Band and many FLOT shows, he continues to find ways to explore music in Alaska and make opportunities for his students to do the same.

Thomas Ramos teaches middle school band and orchestra at **Barnette Magnet School** (*see Elementary Music School Teacher Biographies for more information*).

Theresa VanHying teaches at **Crawford Elementary and Eielson Middle/Senior High**. (*see Elementary Music School Teacher Biographies for more information*).

Todd Wienke teaches band and guitar at **North Pole Middle School**. Todd was born in Buffalo, NY and grew up in western New York state. He studied classical guitar at SUNY Fredonia School of Music with James Piorkowski, earning a bachelor's in Instrumental Music Education in 1998. By 2005, he had also earned a master's degree in Educational Technology from Buffalo State University and was well into a career that included positions at Baker Hall in Buffalo and Silver Creek Central School. This is Todd's 18th year as a teacher and his 6th year in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, currently as Band Director and Guitar Class Instructor at North Pole Middle School. Todd has been music director and guitarist for the Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre's production of *Lizzie* and *RENT* as well as Fairbanks Drama Association's *Buddy Holly Story*. He has also played guitar for FLOT's *Shrek* and FDA's *Ring of Fire*. Todd has been music director and guitarist for the Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre's production of *Lizzie* and *RENT* as well as Fairbanks Drama Association's *Buddy Holly Story*. He has also played guitar for Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre's *Shrek* and FDA's *Ring of Fire*.

Teacher's Biographies

High School Teachers

Trevor Adams teaches orchestra at **West Valley High School**. (*see Elementary Music School Teacher Biographies for more information*).

Gwendolyn P. Brazier teaches band and orchestra at **North Pole High School** (*see Elementary Music School Teacher Biographies for more information*).

Lucas Clooten teaches band, choir, steel drums, guitar, and jazz band at **West Valley High School** and is president-elect of the Alaska Music Educators Association. He grew up in Fairbanks and attended school in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. Mr. Clooten started playing trombone in fourth grade with Mrs. Wendy Ward at Pearl Creek Elementary, continuing with Mrs. Sandy Clark at Tanana Middle School, and finishing with Mr. Don Hildie at Lathrop High School. He was band librarian at Lathrop for two years, and attended the Pacific Basin Music Festival in Honolulu, Hawaii with the band. Mr. Clooten began attending the University of Alaska Fairbanks after graduating from Lathrop in 1997. During his tenure at UAF, he twice helped host the Alaska All-State Music Festival and Alaska Music Educators Association Conference, is a past president of the UAF collegiate chapter of NAFME, and is the founding conductor of the Northern Lights Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Clooten toured with the UAF Jazz Band on trips to the Montreux, North Sea, and Notre Dame Jazz Festivals, and was the administrative assistant for the UAF Jazz Festival for three years. He studied trombone with Dr. James Bicigo for five years, and is a past member of the UAF Wind Symphony. He has attended music conferences in Anchorage, Bellevue, Portland, Spokane, and Nashville as a member of NAFME. Mr. Clooten has worked for the UAF Music Department, the UAF Summer Fine Arts Camp, and as the Librarian and Stage Manager for the Fairbanks Symphony Association. He spent his first year teaching band and choir at Ben Eielson Jr./Sr. High School and ten years teaching band and orchestra at North Pole High School before transferring to West Valley. He has been music director for the Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre shows *Into The Woods*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, *A Hometown Holiday*, and *Meet Me In St. Louis*, performs in the Fairbanks Community Band and Fairbanks Community Jazz Band and Fairbanks Symphony when he can, and helps conduct and sing on a regular basis at church. He is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the Alaska Music Educators Association.

Tristan Hovest teaches band and orchestra at **Lathrop High School**. He was raised in Juneau, Alaska in a rich culture of arts. Tristan started his musical career as a drummer in an african hand drumming ensemble at age 5. He joined public school music in the 6th grade as a percussionist, but quickly picked up the trumpet. In high school he learned most of the band instruments and played in all of the bands at Juneau Douglas High School. In addition to band, Tristan sang in the Juneau Douglas High School choirs and played in the pit orchestras for their musicals. During high school Tristan also became a member of the Juneau Symphony, which he has performed with for the last 15 years. He started his college career at the University of Idaho in Moscow, where he performed with many of the ensembles.

Tristan Hovest (continued) He transferred to University of Alaska Fairbanks where he finished his degree in Music Education in 2014. Upon graduation of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Tristan started his teaching career at Lathrop High School as the director of bands. In 2016 Tristan took over the Lathrop Orchestra program, and now teaches Band and Orchestra at Lathrop. Outside of school Tristan performs with many local bands, including jazz combos and the 70's funk band Shagg. Tristan is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the Alaska Music Educators Association, and is the President of the Alaska Band Directors Association.

MaryCatherine Moroney teaches choir at **North Pole High School**. This is her first year teaching for the Fairbanks North Star Borough District, but she has been teaching choir and private voice for over ten years. She was also an adjunct voice and choir professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks from 2014-2015. Ms. Moroney spent the first few years of her life in Taiwan, and then her family moved to Cincinnati, Ohio when she was nine, and she graduated from high school in Cincinnati, where she sang in choir, played violin and performed in a number of shows. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance from DePauw University, a Master of Music in Voice Performance and a Graduate Performance Diploma in Voice Performance, both from Peabody Institute of Music, and is currently working on her Master of Arts in Teaching through the University of Alaska Anchorage. Following a professional opera career domestically and internationally, she moved to Fairbanks in 2012 and fell in love with the community here and is working her way to becoming a true sourdough! In addition to teaching, Ms. Moroney still actively performs as a professional singer in solo recitals, with Opera Fairbanks, with Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra, and outside of Alaska. She recently stage directed three shows for Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre. She is the current treasurer for Opera Fairbanks. She is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the Alaska Music Educators Association.

Carolyn Soderlund teaches choir at **Lathrop High School**. Mrs. Soderlund has been teaching in the FNSBSD for 28 years. She received her B.A. in music education from Eastern Washington University. She has been the choir director at Lathrop High School for 26 years. (from school year 1984-85 to 1997-98, and again from 2004-05 to the present) She also taught music at Two Rivers School for 2 years (2002-03 till 2003-04) Her first teaching assignment she served as choir director for Tanana Middle School and Lathrop High School. At Lathrop High School she has set an example of excellence among her choirs. Throughout the years the Lathrop Choir has received numerous awards at both the Region and State level. She has taken her choir to sing in Carnegie Hall (upon invitation) 5 times to sing under the baton of distinguished choral directors and symphony directors. Her choirs have also traveled to other events to compete in choral competitions and have always received Gold awards, the highest honor that a choir can receive. Mrs. Soderlund was awarded Alaska Music Educators Association "Music Teacher of the Year" award in 2016. The excellent choral tradition at Lathrop High School continues to thrive under the direction of Carolyn Soderlund. She is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the Alaska Music Educators Association.

Theresa VanHying teaches at **Crawford Elementary and Eielson Middle/Senior High**. (*see Elementary Music School Teacher Biographies for more information*).

Elementary School Music Data

Class Time:

In most buildings, elementary general music classes meet 2-3 times per week on a rotating schedule. These specialist service Pre-K through 6th grade students depending on each school's classroom needs. In addition, these teachers provide music instruction to special education students, both mainstreamed and self-contained. None of the charter schools in our district receive music instruction from a certified music educator. All other elementary schools receive instruction from highly qualified music professionals who have at least a bachelor's degree, full state certification, and have demonstrated competency in music. General music teachers are encouraged to coordinate several concerts a year in order to showcase student development, provide performance opportunities, and engage the community in musical activities.

Student Contact:

Total Elementary School Enrollment –7,835
Total Elementary School Music Enrollment –6,421
Average Elementary School Music Enrollment – 91%

(See the following chart for breakdown by school.)

General music class time received by each student at each district elementary school

School	Class Length	Times Per Week	FTE
Anderson	30 min	2	.5
Anne Wien	40 min	2	1.0
Arctic Light	40 min	1	1.0
Barnette Magnet	55 min	4 (if taken as elective each quarter)	.5
Boreal Sun	0	0	0
Chinook Charter	0 min	0	0
Crawford	30 min	2	.5
Denali	30 min	2x (K, 4-6) 3x (1-3)	1.0
Fairbanks B.E.S.T.	0 min	0	0
Hunter	30 min	2	1.0
Joy	40 min	2	1.0
Ladd	20 min (K-3) 40 min (4-7)	2 or 3(K-3, rotating schedule), 2 or 3 (4-7, rotating schedule)	1.0
Nordale	40 min	2	1.0
North Pole	37 min	2	1.0
Midnight Sun	30 min	2	1.0
Pearl Creek	35 min (Pre-K 30 min)	2	1.0
Salcha	30	2	.5
Ticasuk	30 min	2 (3 times if class receives music enrichment)	1.0
Two Rivers	40 min	2	.4
University Park	30 min	2	1.0
Watershed Charter	0 min	0	0
Weller	30 min	2	1.0
Woodriver	35 min	2	1.0

Percentage of school receiving music services.

School	Total Enrollment	Music Enrollment	Percentage of School
Anderson Elem	198	198	100%
Anne Wien Elem	401	401	100%
Arctic Light Elem	446	335	75%
Barnette Magnet	336 (Elem Numbers Only)	201	59%
Boreal Sun Charter	191	0	0%
Chlnook Charter	151	0	0%
Crawford Elem	286	286	100%
Denali Elem	325	325	100%
Fairbanks B.E.S.T.	294	0	0%
Hunter Elem	390	390	100%
Joy Elem	440	261	59%
Ladd Elem	450	450	100%
Midnight Sun Elem	457	457	100%
Nordale Elem	335	199	59%
North Pole Elem	448	448	100%
Pearl Creek Elem	464	464	100%
Salcha Elem	76	76	100%
Ticasuk Elem	480	480	100%
Two Rivers	76	57	75%
University Park	460	460	100%
Watershed Charter	198	0	0%
Weller	459	459	100%
Woodriver	474	474	100%

Middle School Music Data

Class Time:

Music is offered at every traditional middle school in the FNSBSD. The three traditional middle schools in Fairbanks each have one full-time music director who teaches all the music classes offered at that site. In North Pole the position is split between two people. All of these schools offer choir, band, and orchestra in addition to any other classes such as jazz band, guitar, or enrichment classes. These professionals are responsible for choosing music for performances and for growing students' skills. For a middle school music director in the FNSBSD, there are several different classes for which to prepare. In fact, rarely is a class duplicated in their day, which equates to usually at least five different preps in a day. Middle school music classes are taught by highly qualified music professionals with at least a bachelor's degree in music education, full state certification, and has demonstrated competency in music by passing the Praxis II test.

**Middle School/Jr. High class time given to students at each site
the percentage of students participating in music at those schools**

Middle School	Total Enrollment	Music Enrollment	% of School	Min. Per Week	Classes Per Week
Barnette (K-8)	100 (7 th /8 th only)	47 (7 th /8 th only)	47.0%	220	4
North Pole	577	195	33.8%	270	4
Randy Smith	297	159	53.5%	240	4
Ryan	369	107	29.0%	260	4
Tanana	329	125	38.0%	250	4

Student Contact:

Total Middle School Enrollment – 1672
 Total Middle School Music Enrollment – 633
 Average Middle School Music Enrollment – 37.9%

Curriculum:

The music repertoire for each middle school group is unique to the group, so the teachers construct their teaching materials and methods individually, according to best practices, student skill levels, materials based on their professional assessment, and in alignment with district, state, and national music standards.

Class time involves rehearsing music for upcoming concerts, contests, and other performances. Additionally, a variety of individual tests, projects, and other forms of assessment designed by the music teacher are utilized to promote student learning.

These assessments often include:

- Playing tests -- playing alone and/or with others from selected repertoire
- Theory tests -- demonstrating understanding of technical elements of music and literacy
- Performances -- events like concerts, competitions, and community performances
- Class Participation -- bringing instrument, music, pencil, and demonstrating competency and effort on a daily basis
- Practice Charts
- Self-Assessments

Middle/Jr. High Classes Offered:

(The following chart shows the classes that are being offered at each middle school site.)

Middle School	Per. 0 (Before or After School)	Per. 1	Per. 2	Per. 3	Per. 4	Per. 5	Per. 6	Per. 7
North Pole			7th/8th Grade Orch 16	6th Choir 26	7th Choir 12	8th Choir 26	6th Orchestra 25	
		8th Concert Band 20	7th/8th Guitar 17	7th Concert Band 18		6th Guitar 14	6th Varsity Band 21	
Randy Smith	Jazz Band 19	Guitar 21	Choir 22	Band 45	Orchestra 36			Exploratory 16
Ryan		Choir 17	Orchestra 23	Band 36				Jazz Band (3 hours/wk) 31
Tanana		Concert Orchestra 18		Concert Band 20	Varsity Band 19	Choir 25	Beginning Orchestra 22	Synergy 21
Barnette Magnet							Musical Theater Q1: 22 Choir Q2: 4 Percussion Q4: 3 (7 th -8 th only)	Piano (7 th -8 th) Q2: 6 Q3: 8 Ukelele Q4: 4 (7 th -8 th only)

Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities:

Middle school music directors provide students and communities with musical experiences such as participation in concerts (three or more per year) as well as opportunities to hear live music in said concerts. They also do extra activities like travelling to state or regional festivals, and engendering service learning projects like performing at community functions or other schools.

High School Music Data

Class Time:

(The following chart shows the percentage of students participating in music and the amount of class time given to students at each high school.)

High School	Total Enrollment	Music Enrollment	Percentage of School	Minutes Per Week	Classes Per Week
Ben Eielson Jr./Sr.	328	41	12.5%	270	4
Hutchison	405	0	0%		
Lathrop	944	241	25.5%	256	4
North Pole	642	138	21.5%	256	4
Star of the North	177	1		128	2
West Valley	981	207	21.1%	256	4

Student Contact:

Total High School Enrollment – 3300
 Total High School Music Enrollment – 627
 Average High School Music Enrollment – 19.0%

Numbers removing Hutchinson from the equation:

Total High School Enrollment – 2895
 Total High School Music Enrollment – 627
 Average High School Music Enrollment – 21.7%

Curriculum:

The music repertoire for each high school group is unique to the group, so the teachers construct their curricula individually, according to best practices, student skill levels, materials based on their professional assessment, and in alignment with district, state, and national music standards.

Class time involves rehearsing music for upcoming concerts, contests, and other performances. Additionally, a variety of individual tests, projects, and other forms of assessment designed by the music teacher are utilized to promote student learning.

These assessments often include:

- Playing tests -- playing alone and/or with others from selected repertoire
- Theory tests -- demonstrating understanding of technical elements of music and literacy
- Performances -- events like concerts, competitions, and community performances
- Class Participation -- bringing instrument, music, pencil, and demonstrating competency and effort on a daily basis
- Practice Charts
- Self-Assessments

Classes Offered:

(The following chart shows which classes are offered at each high school during each period of the day included zero hour and after school.)

School	Per. 0	Per. 1	Per. 2	Per. 3	Per. 4	Per. 5	Per. 6
Ben Eielson Jr./Sr.					Choir 7	Band 21	Orchestra 13
Hutchison	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lathrop	Jazz Band 19	Concert Band 20	Concert Orchestra 19		Symphonic Band 38	Chamber Orchestra 25	
	Show Choir 22	Mixed Choir 18		Beg/Int Guitar 19	Concert Choir 32	Treble Choir 29	
North Pole	Orchestra 18	Band 23					
	Jazz Choir 10	Mixed Choir 41	Treble Choir 18	Concert Choir 22	Men's Choir 6		
West Valley	Jazz Band 16		Symphonic Band 28	Concert Band 32	Mixed/Concert Choir 32		S1: Beg/Int Guitar 25 S2: Beg/Adv Steel Drums 26
	Concert Orchestra 20	Chamber Orchestra 28					

State and National Music Awards

The existence of the ASAA/First National Bank Alaska All-State Music Festival enables outstanding high school musicians to participate as members of select statewide band, choral, and orchestral music ensembles and promotes the highest standards of musicianship. The goal of this activity is to foster and inspire technical achievement, aesthetic understanding, and critical listening skills that allow for the culmination of a final creative musical performance of the highest artistic level.

Adopted by the All-State Music Festival Committee on February 10, 1996

Fairbanks has significant representation at the ASAA All-State Music Festival and the ASAA State Solo/Ensemble Festival. At the highly competitive 2018 ASAA All-State Music Festival, Region 6 (Delta, Fairbanks, and North Pole) submitted 82 auditions of which 37 were accepted. This equates to a 45% acceptance rate.

Five of the First Chair Awards at All-State were given to our students, which is 14.7% of first chairs awarded.

First Chair Band Students (16 possible chairs)

Joshua Mandich (Monroe)

Eli Wyatt (West Valley)

First Chair Mixed Choir Students (8 possible chairs)

Cindy Castro (Lathrop)

Camden Kegley (Lathrop)

First Chair Orchestra Students (5 possible chairs)

Alex Apicella-Adams (West Valley)

First Chair Treble Choir Students (4 possible chairs)

2018 ASAA All-State Students

Ben Eielson Jr./Sr. High School

Mason Wolverton (alternate)

PashiaLyn Ignacio (alternate)

Lathrop High School

Naomi Boland

Morgan Holman

Joshua Mandich (First Chair)

Lily Sears

Cindy Castro (First Chair)

Isaac Dershin

Tony Dickinson

Camden Kegley (First Chair)

Neal Morrill

Allie Plachinski

Dane Soderlund

Jesse Ackerman (alternate)

Joshua Gloria (alternate)

Victor Zhou

Arianna Carroll

Kimmie Plachinski

Hattie Ronnander

Amber Shepard

North Pole High School

Alexis Arvold
Elena Rodriguez (alternate)

Leah Dustin
Joslynn Rock

Joel Denham (alternate)
Amy Stefan

West Valley High School

Jackson Brannan
Tiana Taylor
Tiernan Brenner-Gelvin
Iris Danielson
Drake Lanam
Nikolas McGraw

Eli Wyatt (First Chair)
Alex Apicella-Adams (First Chair)
Dylan Candelaria
Helen Heidel
Else Mayo
John Harun-Delong (alternate)

Eddie Banks (alternate)
Ian Brenner-Gelvin
Jack Cater
Aiden Johns
Laura Mayo

2018 NAFME All-National Students

Lathrop High School

Lily Sears

Dane Soderlund

2019 NAFME All-Northwest Students

Lathrop High School

Hattie Ronnander
Allie Plachinski
Victor Zhou

Tony Dickinson
Dane Soderlund
Arianna Carroll

Camden Kegley
Lily Sears

North Pole High School

Leah Dustin

West Valley High School

Alex Apicella-Adams
Else Mayo

Dylan Candelaria
Nikolas McGraw

Jack Cater

2019 All-Alaska Jazz Band Students

Lathrop High School

Chase Melville (First Chair)

West Valley High School

Eddie Banks (First Chair)

Eli Wyatt (First Chair)

ASAA State Solo/Ensemble

The goal of State Solo/Ensemble is to foster and inspire technical achievement, aesthetic understanding, and critical listening skills. Students prequalify for participation by receiving a "I" or "Superior" rating at a qualifying regional festival. The students below received a "Superior" rating at the local regional festival and therefore qualified to participate in the ASAA State Solo/Ensemble Festival in Anchorage in 2018.

At the 2018 State Solo/Ensemble Festival, the FNSBSD was well-represented with 16 out of 43 command performances awarded to district students, which is 37% of the total command performances. By contrast, Anchorage School District had 12 command performances, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough and Mat-Su Borough School Districts each had 6. In addition, Fairbanks had 9 other 2nd or 3rd place nominations for command performances.

2018 State Solo/Ensemble Command Performances

Brass Ensemble--Lathrop
Cello Solo: Rosalee Bertram--West Valley
Clarinet Ensemble--Lathrop
Musical Theatre Large Ensemble--North Pole
Percussion Solo: Oscar Beausoleil--West Valley
String Bass Solo: Drake Lanam--West Valley
String Ensemble--West Valley
Trumpet Solo: Jacob Batchelder--Lathrop
Viola Solo: Lucas Candelaria--West Valley
Violin Solo: Sydney Cox--West Valley
Violin Ensemble--West Valley
Vocal Classical Solo: Camden Kegley--Lathrop
Vocal Classical Small Ensemble--Lathrop
Vocal Classical Large Ensemble--North Pole
World Instrument Small Ensemble--West Valley
World Instrument Large Ensemble--West Valley

Noteworthy

Elementary:

All traditional elementary school students receive general music classes twice per week.

Non-charter elementary school students, regardless of socioeconomic status, in the FNSBSD have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument in 4th, 5th, and 6th grade by participating in band or orchestra.

Students have performance opportunities as part of school ensembles. Student performances create positive school culture and engage the community in school activities. These performances provide for personalized learning and group cooperation and collaboration.

Some elementary schools offer choir in grades 3-6.

Woodriver, University Park, and Ladd Elementary Schools offer jazz band for students in grades 4-6. These are mostly offered as co-curricular activities.

Students are given access to instrumental music instruction during the school day making it equitable for all students. This is possible because the FNSBSD provides instruments and equipment for student use.

The receipt of the anonymous \$110,000 donation for elementary musical instruments will help facilitate our districts' instrumental repair and replacement program. This year elementary school instrumental programs purchased dozens of new instruments for student use. Music teachers worked with procurement specialists to customize instruments according to the needs of each school. Because so many instruments were bought at once, the district was able to get great prices on good-quality instruments.

Fairbanks elementary band directors collaborated to rent UAF's Patty Center to put on the first ever Young Band Festival in the Interior. Over 300 students came together to put on this concert where all students played the same pieces together. There was great feedback from parents and supporters, and hopefully this will be the first of many more similar (and improved) festivals to come.

Middle School:

As students move from elementary to middle school, they have an automatic positive peer group through their band, choir and orchestra ensemble participation that will stay with them throughout their school career.

These positive peer groups also provide a place for military students to find a home at their new schools.

High School

Fairbanks had significant representation at the ASAA All-State Festival and ASAA State Solo and Ensemble Festival. At the highly competitive 2017 ASAA All-State Festival Competition, 53 Students of the 344 total participants were from the FNSBSD. This equates to 15% of the participants from the entire state were from our community.

Five of the First Chair awards at All-State were given to our students, which is 13% of first chairs given.

At the 2017 State Solo and Ensemble the FNSBSD was equally well-represented with 12 out of 28 first place command performance awards given to FNSBSD students, which is 43% of the total first place awards given.

North Pole High School produces a large-scale musical every year. North Pole High students and teachers produced and performed Hairspray: the Musical. West Valley students helped by playing in the pit orchestra, and Mr. Clooten directed the music. The show was a great success with the largest audience attendance in recent North Pole High history.

Lathrop High School puts on a large-scale musical every year or two. This year, Lathrop students and teachers produced and performed Disney's Newsies, which was a huge success. 37 students and 7 adults were in the cast. 22 were in the pit orchestra musicians, and there were 16 crew members. These musical endeavors have grown over the past 10 years. Initially they started with about \$2000.00 of seed money and now have grown that to over \$35,000.00 in profits from shows. This year they had over 8000+ people see the show. Pretty amazing!!

Miscellaneous:

All middle schools and high schools offer band, choir, and orchestra. This is very important in creating opportunity and equity among schools.

Teachers in the FNSBSD collaborate to produce Music In Our School Month Concerts which encompass students from grades 4-12.

All music teachers in the FNSBSD are highly qualified in music.

Music teachers from the FNSBSD are members of the Alaska Music Educators Association and attend many state and national conferences.

Area jazz band directors are collaborating on the second ever Jazz Nite held at Ryan Middle School on April 19th. This will feature all school jazz bands in the area from elementary up to high school. This is an opportunity for students to play for their families, community members, and other students. It gives younger students the chance to hear the kind of musicians they can become if they continue playing jazz into middle and high school. For older students it's the opportunity to hear how far they've come and to hear what other groups around the borough are playing.

Collaboration occurs with other community groups such as Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre, Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra, UAF Department of Music and Fairbanks Concert Association. Many groups come and perform at schools and/or come to schools to work with students in order to improve their skills.

The music teachers of the FNSBSD sponsor a Music in Our Schools Month T-shirt design contest for their t-shirt fundraiser every year. The funds are used to give scholarships to music students to attend music/performance summer camps. In 2018, the MIOSM Scholarship Committee awarded \$2025 in scholarships to local students so that they could have musical experience and training over the summer! The following students received

awards in varying amounts: Joshua Swank, Burnley Garron, Juliana Nudi, Dominic Keller, Devon Sackinger, Ayla Rodgers, Torleif Bentzen, Olivia Cook, Kate Douge, Sophie Henry, Audrey Swank, Jonathan Swank, Reagan McNearney, Ian Carlson, Ella Carlson, Samantha Hopkins, Rudy Tansy, Adeline Hiemstra, and Hailey Smith. Their camps of choice included Alaska Cello Intensive, Fairbanks Bluegrass Camp for Kids, Flot Jr. Summer Fine Arts Camp, Dance Theatre Fairbanks Summer Dance Camp, UAF Summer Music Academy, Fairbanks Suzuki Institute, and Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival.

The district has been including music teachers in conversations about schedules and assignment changes. We look forward to continued conversations in this positive manner in the upcoming school year and beyond. This will ensure that our students receive an equitable and excellent music education in all our schools.

The FNSBSD has not proposed any cuts to overall district music staffing allocations!

Recommendations

Equitable Access to Music Education

Create a district music plan that provides guidance for all schools (charter, magnet, public) on the necessary curriculum and classes students must have access to as a part of an equitable, excellent, and well-rounded education. *This aligns with the FNSBSD's motto "equity and excellence for all". It also aligns with the Fairbanks School Board's core value to be student centered.*

Sustainable Staffing Options

In light of current budget concerns, we would encourage the district to look at a variety of staffing models to ensure that our students receive an equitable and excellent music education. Flexible staffing and sharing staff among various buildings/levels should allow teachers to best serve our students. Full time teaching positions will help recruit and keep high quality teachers for our district. *This aligns with the Fairbanks School Board's core values to be collaborative and innovative as well as its strategic goals to execute effective communication and provide organizational support.*

Principals who share itinerant staff should work collaboratively to maximize the use of time and resources.

In many situations, elementary instrumental music educators are not allowed to teach because of the needs of the school schedule. Currently it is up to the music teachers to reconcile these issues to the best of their ability. *This aligns with the Fairbanks School Board's core values to be collaborative and innovative as well as its strategic goals to execute effective communication and provide organizational support.*

District-Wide Music Hiring Committee

Under the guidance of a Music Coordinator, we recommend assembling a committee to assist in interviewing and hiring quality music teachers. *This aligns with the Fairbanks School Board's core values to be collaborative and innovative as well as its strategic goals to execute effective communication and provide organizational support.*

Jazz Band

Offer jazz band as a class at every middle school. *This aligns with the FNSBSD's motto "equity and excellence for all". It also aligns with the Fairbanks School Board's core value to be student centered.*

- This can be achieved by offering jazz band as a zero-hour class or during an advisory-type or exploratory-type class.
- Currently jazz band is not offered at all middle schools. It is, however, offered at all high schools.
- Because jazz band is an advanced class and requires critical thinking and another level of understanding in music, this discrepancy puts some students at a severe disadvantage to others when they go on to high school. Students who attend middle schools that offer jazz band are better prepared for this advanced ensemble, while students who attend a middle school that does not offer jazz band as a class have much less skill preparation for this.
- Offering jazz band as a class at every middle school would align more closely with the FNSBSD's goal to be equitable.

More Flexible Elective Options in Middle School

In most middle schools in our district, students and parents are forced to choose only one elective option. This creates conflict for opportunities for those same students to also participate in things like ELP. We would like to see more middle schools have either 1) students be able to choose more than one elective per year/semester or 2) students have more flexibility so that they can do band/orchestra/choir *and* ELP (for example) rather than have to choose one over the other because both are important for preparation to future successes. We see a huge drop in numbers from elementary school to high school -- from 38% participation in middle school to 19% in high school! We think offering more elective solutions and flexibility may help students who start in music to continue participating in music throughout their educational career.. *This aligns with the Fairbanks School Board's core values to be student-centered and innovative as well as its strategic goals to provide organizational support.*

Upgrade Technology in All Music Classrooms

There are music classrooms that have not been kept up with current technology within the district. *This aligns with the Fairbanks School Board's strategic goals to provide technology integration.*

Strategic Instrument Repair/Replacement

Create a strategic plan of capital outlay on a rotational basis for the repair and replacement of aging instrument and/or equipment that may require expensive repairs or are beyond repair. Instruments have a life-span. At some point they are beyond repair or at least beyond inexpensive repair. Instruments that are broken or difficult to play are very discouraging for students. *This aligns with the Fairbanks School Board's core values to be student-centered and innovative as well as its strategic goals to provide organizational support.*

Topics for future consideration in reports:

- Surveying students to gain information such as
 - Why the decline in music participation from middle school to high school? Is it scheduling conflicts? Is it that students only get one elective?
 - What keeps students participating in music?
 - When and why do students cease to participate in music in school?
- Gathering further data from schools and breaking down that information to gain further knowledge.
- Getting numbers for elementary schools broken down by grades so that we can have accurate percentages in participation among grades rather than total school population.
- Collecting information about graduation rates and their correlations to participation in music.
- Gathering more information about music students who receive scholarships for continuing education.
- Budget considerations both district-wide and site-based.
- More specific k-8 data regarding participation in a variety of music classes.
- Collecting numbers for elementary instrumental music participation with accurate grade-level population. That way we can know the percentages of elementary students participating in instrumental music in schools.