

MUSIC FAQ

- 1. Currently, there is a faculty member serving in a 0.6 music position. Why is a 0.4 reduction to this position being recommended in the proposed budget for next year?**

In spring of 2023, we recognized the retirement of a member of the music faculty. That same member was promptly hired back as a 0.6, with the understanding that anticipated projections in enrollment & scheduling would not necessitate this position for the 2024-25 school year. Currently, there is a staff member with 0.2 available in their schedule. Additionally, there will be two fewer classes at Hillside next year due to enrollment. This is a natural 0.2 reduction. Taken together, these are the reasons for the 0.4 reduction. Please note that restoring an additional 0.4 music position would actually be an increase to our music program. We budget based on need and with consideration of contractual agreements.

- 2. What are our current 2023-2024 music offerings?**

Scheduled Classes:

HES: Kindergarten Music, 1st Grade Music, 2nd Grade Music, 3rd Grade Music, 4th Grade Music, K-2 Communications

FMS: Band 5, Band 6, Advanced Band 7 & 8, Cultures thru Music (AOK), Chorus 5, Chorus 6, Chorus 7 & 8, Orchestra 5, Orchestra 6, Orchestra 7 & 8

HHS: Music Theory, AP Music Theory (contingent on annual enrollment and scheduled to run next year), Band, Chorus, Orchestra, Recording Technology, Independent Studies

Scheduled Lessons:

HES: Strings (3), Orchestra (4), Band (4)

FMS: Orchestra (5-8), Band (5-8)

HHS: Orchestra (9-12), Band (9-12)

Scheduled Ensembles:

HES: Band (4), Orchestra (4)

FMS: Chorus (5-6), Band (5-6), Orchestra (5-6), Chorus (7-8), Band (7-8), Orchestra (7-8)

HHS: Chorus, Band, Orchestra

Schedule Bs:

HES: Little Kids Rock, Elementary Chorus (3-4)

FMS: Select Chorus (5-6), Jazz Band

HHS: Chamber Music, Madrigal Choir, Pep Band, Jazz Band

3. What, if any, changes to the aforementioned 2023-2024 music offerings are expected for the 2024-2025 school year?

High school chorus will have one less section of music next year. This is due to enrollment numbers. For further specificity about this change, please note that two sections of chorus are currently being offered for the 2023-2024 school year. One has 12 students enrolled. The other has 14 students enrolled.

Farragut Middle School will add general music to ensure that all students in 7th and 8th grade who are not participating in an ensemble (chorus, band or orchestra), will receive their State required half unit of study. ([See 1c](#))

Hillside will have two fewer classes next year due to student enrollment. Because each class receives music as a special twice in a cycle, there will be four less general music classes per cycle as they are not needed. K-2 communications students will be integrated into general music classes next year. Depending on need, please note that some years Hillside communications students are integrated and other years they are not. Integration is expected for the 2024-2025 school year.

4. What will the music faculty be teaching next year?

Core Program:

John Carini, Department Chairperson: 3rd Grade Strings, 4th Grade Orchestra, 5th Grade Orchestra, 6th Grade Orchestra, HS Recording Technology, FMS General Music

Katie Condra: K-4 General Music

Eric Day: 5th Grade Band, 6th Grade Band, 7th/8th Grade Band, 7th/8th Grade Orchestra, HS Band, HS Orchestra, HS AP Music Theory

Doug Friedman: K-3 General Music, 4th Grade Band

Jon Riss: 4th Grade General Music, 5th Grade Chorus, 6th Grade Chorus, 7th/8th Grade Chorus, HS Chorus, HS Music Theory

Schedule Bs:

(These extra pay positions are outside of contractual obligations and by application)

John Carini: Little Kids Rock Band, Chamber Music

Eric Day: Jazz Band, Pep Band

Jon Riss: Elementary Chorus (3/4), Select Chorus (5/6), Madrigal Choir

5. During the 2022-2023 school year, the 0.6 music position was a 1.0 position. Why was this position reduced to a 0.6 position moving into the 2023-2024 school year?

Without making any changes to our music offerings, there was room in a faculty member's schedule to make this adjustment. The decision to reduce the 1.0 position to a 0.6 position was made collaboratively between building administration and the faculty member. As with the current budget proposal, there is a fiduciary responsibility to ensure that faculty are working to contract.

6. In the past, general music was available in grades 7/8? When and why was this changed?

Within the last couple of years, the middle school reallocated the 7th/8th grade general music position to provide chorus and instrumental music opportunities for all 5th graders. While we now have more robust opportunities for our 5th graders, the need remains to provide general music in either 7th or 8th grade for students who are not participating in chorus, band, or orchestra. This need is a 0.2 position.

7. Who will be teaching the 0.2 general music position at FMS?

Faculty members serving as department chairpersons receive a 0.2 reduction in their schedule in addition to a chairperson stipend. Our music chairperson will teach, and be compensated additionally for this 0.2 position.

8. What are the current overall enrollment numbers for our music offerings?

Please refer to the four tabs within [this Google sheet document](#) to understand the number of students participating in scheduled classes, scheduled lessons, scheduled ensembles, and our Schedule B offerings.

9. Could you please share the current enrollment numbers for each music class?

Please refer to the three tabs within [this Google sheet document](#) to understand the number of students participating in each section.

10. How are music lessons scheduled?

The music department schedules their lessons with students. Considerations include grade level, instrument, ensemble, and group size. Music lessons offered by each teacher rotate across the A-F day cycle.

11. With the recommended 0.4 reduction, will 1:1 lessons still be offered?

1:1 lessons have never been part of our music program.

12. Why would a student take an independent study in music?

Students register for an independent study when chorus, band, or orchestra does not fit into their high school schedule. They then join the band/orchestra before school and/or chorus in the evening.

13. Will students in Communications classes at Hillside receive music instruction next year?

Yes. Communications classes will be integrated into general music classes.

14. What would the cost be to have an additional 1.0 music teacher?

The cost would range depending on the amount of experience the music teacher has. For a newer teacher with four years or less experience, the cost would range from approximately \$127,000 - \$147,000. For a teacher with 10 years experience or more, the cost would be in the \$160,000 - \$195,000 range. These amounts include the cost of benefits.

15. Could you please provide an estimate of what it would cost the district to replace a 0.6 position?

Please see the question above. A 0.6 position would cost approximately 0.6 of what is indicated. Please note that finding a new, qualified part time music teacher would likely be challenging from a hiring perspective.

16. If enrollment in music classes and lessons in 24/25 school year exceeds the current projections, how would the District respond?

As in all areas of staffing, if during the 24/25 school year, actual enrollments exceed projections, the administration would review the impact on student programming and consider recommending additional staffing as needed. Funding for additional staffing would either come from other areas of the budget where we have efficiencies based on actual enrollment and/or an allocation from an unassigned fund balance.