

Why Instrumental Music Can NOT Be a Half or Part Time Position

Next years bands are well over 30 students. To any other teacher this would be considered an overload. Combining these band will only make that number higher.

Projected Number for 2009-2010 School Year

Beginning Band - Recruited over the summer. Should well exceed 30 students.

Middle School Band - between 43-51 students

High School Band - 44-46 plus 2 Math Science Center and 1 Alternative Ed.

Part time CAN NOT justify the numerous obligations outside of the school day.

This includes: Band Camp, Evening Rehearsals, Marching Band Festival, Football Games, High School Honors Band, CSAA Meetings, Middle School Solo Ensemble, Middle School Solo Ensemble Rehearsals, Holiday Arts Concerts, Middle School Honors Band, High School Solo Ensemble, High School Solo Ensemble Rehearsals, Middle School Band Festival, High School Band Festival, State Band Festival, Spring Arts Concerts, Chamber Rehearsals, Graduation, Memorial Day Parade, Celebration on the Pond, Monthly Band Boosters Meetings, Fundraising, MSBOA Meetings and work assignments.

These obligations are only compounded by the fact that schedule B is currently not being funded for the 2009-2010 School Year.

According to a Michigan State University Study, Morley Stanwood is currently at the bottom of Schedule B stipend for the band director. The 2008-2009 Schedule B was 6% of step one. The State average is 10-12% of the current step. Regardless of the percentage, Mr. VanStrien gave his time and efforts to ensure a successful program and would continue to do so.

By combining the 7th and 8th grade band to form the middle school band students learned more.

The 2008-2009 School year was the first year we formed a middle school band. We did so by combining the 7th and 8th grade bands. This gave 7th graders a chance to participate in band every day which is the norm in most school districts. It also gave them full rights to their other related arts classes which also make for a well rounded education. The experiment paid off. The middle school band earned straight first division ratings in all categories.

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With the addition of the newly formed middle school band, classes were able to be offered in the high school that expanded more students to the arts.

This year opened a new music composition class which offered the general high school population to experience music education. At the end of every trimester students wrote their own music, published it and left with a better understanding of how music is created and appreciated. This is something that is needed in the high school curriculum as elective classes are in demand. The last trimester also opened room for a high school jazz band. While a jazz band in design is not a high number class, students were able to learn, improvise and study a new art form.

The band program is one of the most successful programs in the school district and consistently earns high ratings and is a positive reflection on our community.

The 2008-2009 marked one of the most successful years in recent history. We had a record number of first division ratings at District Solo Ensemble festival and a record number of first division ratings at State Solo Ensemble. The Middle School Band earned straight first division ratings in all categories at the MSBOA Band and Orchestra Festival. The High School Concert Band earned a first division rating at the MSBOA District Band and Orchestra Festival and was invited to perform at the MSBOA State Band and Orchestra Festival.

We could not offer these opportunities to the students in a part time position. The success of the students would be greatly affected or eliminated by this cut. Much has been built over the past ten years and would be a disservice to our students and community to see this happen.