

## **Music Department Meeting**

**November 20, 2019**

*Shannon Callahan (Parent Rep 1d)*

### **Present:**

Dr. Curtis (Music Dep. Head)

Michelle Jaques (Orchestra)

Laura Beebe (3/4 Choir, Boomwhackers)

Nora Epping (5/6 Band/General Music)

Student Rep

- **Highlights:**
  - Successful Musical
  - Dom Concert coming up
  - Elementary School Concert split in 2 halves
  - Fall one concert/Spring two concerts
  - Fund Raising/Donations are used for:
    - New Vibraphone, Sheet Music, Microphones, Cables, Boomwhackers, Books and Music supplies
  
- **Elementary School Concert: December 12<sup>th</sup>**
  - Split in 2 halves:
    - 19:00-19:30 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Choir, Boomwhackers, Recorders
    - 19:30-20:00 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Choir
  - Families of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> asked to leave when children finished
  - Tickets will be color coded and printed at school, Dr. Curtis will organize this
  - Email will be sent out to all parents explaining that the aula is too small for all four grades to attend simultaneously.
  
- **Concert Order**
  - Boomwhackers
  - Recorder
  - Choir: Beginning then Advanced
    - Stage change kids must wait
  - Kammerchor 6th
  - Band 6th
  - Orchestra
  - Choir 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>
  - Jazzband
  
- **December 13<sup>th</sup> Matinees**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Hour
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> hour: Grade 1,2,3
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> hour: Grades 4,5,6
  - Abbreviated program 45 minutes long
  - First Matinee:
    - 5/6 Choir
    - Orchestra

- Switch
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Choir
  - Kammerchor
  - Boomwhackers
  - Advanced Band
- Second Matinee:
  - ¾ Choir
  - Kammerchor
  - Advanced Band
    - Switch
  - Boomwhackers
  - 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Orchestra
  - Jazz Band
- Students will reset chairs after Matinee. Hausmeister will set up.
- **High School Concert December 10<sup>th</sup>**
  - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Choir
  - 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Band
  - 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Orchestra
  - Women's Ensemble
  - H.S. Band

**Personal Notes:**

I had the pleasure of meeting the high school music teacher and choir director for grades 5-8, Ms. Cook, as she was leaving to attend a teacher's conference in Hong Kong. Dr. Curtis informed me that the school participates in annual teacher exchanges and that the program profits greatly from these trips. Exciting!

Before the other teachers arrived, I spoke with Dr. Curtis about the wonderful string department at the school. We talked about the well-known benefits of introducing music at an early age. I asked why there was no program for singing/music in the lower grades. Dr. Curtis agreed that this critical piece is missing from the program. I asked why this is so. He replied that School Administration has said due to scheduling, lack of staff, and the existing singing circles, it is not deemed necessary despite Berlin Curriculum requiring it.

Dr. Curtis and I (also a music educator) were in complete agreement that the music department (and other subjects) would benefit greatly from an Early Education Music Specialist being added to the program. I am a big fan of the Music Department and all Dr. Curtis and his colleagues are doing for our school.

As a result of our meeting, I feel Parent Council should address Dr. Curtis' recommendation that music be offered in the early grades.