MEMO TO: Dr. Jon Graff, Superintendent
Mr. Darin Doherty, Curriculum Coordinator

FROM: Jana Sykora, South Elementary Principal

DATE: October 19, 2026

RE: Recommendation for K-6
Music Curriculum Purchase

Please review this memo outlining a proposal to purchase a three-year subscription for new K-6 music curriculum. After learning we could no longer purchase the curriculum being used, our elementary and middle school music educators began looking for an alternative curriculum aligned to Minnesota standards.

Background & Context

- Previous Review & Curriculum: The district's last music curriculum review began in June 2020, leading to the purchase of a multi-year subscription to *Spotlight Music*. That subscription expired in July 2026, and the product has been discontinued and is no longer available for purchase due to licensing.
- Current State Standards: The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) last updated state academic standards in the arts (including music) in 2018.
- Upcoming State Standards Review: Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 120B.021, Subd. 4, state K–12 academic standards in the arts are scheduled for review on a 10-year cycle. MDE is next scheduled to review and revise these standards during the 2027–2028 school year.
- Alignment with Proposed Timeline: Adopting a 3-year subscription to Musicplay Online (2026–2027 through 2028–2029) bridges the gap left by the expiration of *Spotlight Music*. Scheduling Phase One of our next district curriculum review for 2028–2029 aligns with MDE's expected release of updated state arts standards, allowing us to evaluate the curriculum against those new benchmarks before long-term renewal.

In addition to the two final candidates, three other publishers were reviewed but ruled out for a variety of critical factors:

1. **"interactiveMusic" (powered by Silver Burdett):** While similar to our previous curriculum, the representative—after three weeks of poor communication—revealed that they will only license music through the current school year and will discontinue the program after this spring (similar to McGraw Hill).

2. **"Fun Music Co":** Created in Australia, this publisher claims correlation with U.S. National Standards in Music, but lacks sufficient material to cover all the middle school semester lessons required by Jamie Abels.
3. **"Music Game Plan":** Written in 2008 by two now-retired teachers who have no plans to update it. It only covers grades K–5 and features minimalistic lesson planning and assessment resources.

The two most viable publishers—**Musicplay** and **Quaver Music**—were formally evaluated using the district's Curricula Assessment Tool. Jamie Abels evaluated the middle school perspectives, and Robyn Woods evaluated the elementary (K–4) perspectives.

Out of a total possible score of 76 points per reviewer, the final rubric scores were as follows:

Curriculum	**Jamie Abels (MS) Score**	**Robyn Woods (K–4) Score**	**Combined Total Score**
Musicplay	**75 / 76**	**73 / 76**	**148 / 152**
Quaver Music	69 / 76	67 / 76	136 / 152

Key Strengths of Musicplay:

- Continuous Content Updates: Updated quarterly with fresh resources, lessons, and upgrades.
- Engaging & Diverse Media: Features live-action video demonstrations showing real students from diverse backgrounds and cultures, as well as songs in multiple languages.
- Multimodal Pedagogy: Includes strong auditory, visual, and kinesthetic activities (play-alongs, games, movement) with flexible display/presentation options for text and notation.
- Assessment & Support: Provides comprehensive printable worksheets, rubrics, interactive assessments, and publisher-backed professional development (workshops, webinars, and blogs).

Drawbacks Identified in Quaver Music:

- Released in 2016 with only minor annual updates.
- Relies primarily on animated/cartoon characters rather than live human representations of diversity.
- Audio/video synchronization issues and concerns regarding potential computer memory and internet lag when pre-loading screens.

Recommendation & Next Steps

1. Adopt Musicplay Online: Secure a 3-year subscription to Musicplay Online for Grades K–6 covering school years 2026–2027, 2027–2028, and 2028–2029.
2. Cost-Effectiveness: Musicplay is both higher-scoring on our rubric and more affordable than Quaver. Detailed vendor quotes from both companies are attached for review.
3. Future Review Cycle: Schedule Phase One of the Music Curriculum Review to begin in June 2028 to analyze program success, review standards alignment, and determine future steps prior to renewal.

WESTMUSIC

music constructED PERCUSSION SOURCE

BID / QUOTATION

Sales Quote Number: SQ194542
Sales Quote Date: 10/02/26
Page: 1 of 1

West Music
1212 5th St * P.O. Box 5521
Coralville, IA 52241
Billing: 800-373-2000
Service 800-397-9378
service@westmusic.com
westmusic.com

Percussion Source
P.O. Box 5521
Coralville, IA 52241
Billing: 800-373-2000
Service: 866-849-4387
service@percussionsource.com
percussionsource.com

Bill To: ST PETER SCHOOL DISTRICT 508
100 LINCOLN DRIVE
SAINT PETER, MN 56082
United States

Ship To: ST PETER SCHOOL DISTRICT 508
ATTN: WOODS/ABELS
100 LINCOLN DRIVE
SAINT PETER, MN 56082
United States

Requested By	ST PETER SCHOOL DISTRICT 508	Customer No.	C004896
Terms	NET 30 DAYS	Customer Phone	+15079345703
P.O. Number	QUOTE ONLY	Customer Fax	
Salesperson	LARISSA PEREZ	Your Reference	

Item No.	Description	Qty.	Unit	MSRP	Disc %	Your Price	Ext. Price
867845	**MUSICPLAY K5 COMPLETE**	1	Bundle	$1,625.00	10.03%	$1,462.00	$1,462.00
	GAGNE;6 TCHR BOOK/DIG ACCESS; 3 YR SUBCRIP						
D805032	**MUSICPLAY MIDDLE SCH TEACHER**	1	Each	$140.00	28.00%	$100.80	$100.80
	GAGNE;BK/DIGITAL ACCESS;DEMO						
	FREE SHIPPING	1					

Quote

Quote: 21009-2

(Not a Final Invoice)

To place your order, upload the following information to this form (you can also copy this link in your browser https://public.quavered.com/customer-information-form/21009/2):

1. PO or other form of payment, and tax exempt certificate (if applicable).
2. Billing information including email address. We email all invoices.
3. List of teachers/users including the user's name, email address and school location.

Prepared For: ST. PETER PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT **Date:** 09/11/2026

Item Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Unit Price After Discounts	Line Total
MINNESOTA Music Curriculum - Grade K, 3-Year License	1	$900.00		$900.00
MINNESOTA Music Curriculum - Grade 1, 3-Year License	1	$900.00		$900.00
MINNESOTA Music Curriculum - Grade 2, 3-Year License	1	$900.00		$900.00
MINNESOTA Music Curriculum - Grade 3, 3-Year License	1	$900.00		$900.00
MINNESOTA Music Curriculum - Grade 4, 3-Year License	1	$900.00		$900.00
MINNESOTA Music Curriculum - Grade 5, 3-Year License	1	$900.00		$900.00
MINNESOTA Music Curriculum - Grade 6, 3-Year License	1	$900.00		$900.00
			Sub Total	$6,300.00
			Tax	$0.00
			*Total	$6,300.00