

New Fairfield Public Schools

New Course Proposal

Directions:

Before completing this form, please discuss this proposal with the appropriate administrator(s) in your school. Complete this proposal form thoroughly, and attach any supporting documentation that would help the Board of Education's Curriculum Sub-Committee understand this proposal better. Be sure that you adhere to all deadlines, and be certain to acquire all required signatures. To ensure that a course can be properly planned for, if it is intended for a coming school year, please complete it by October 31. All other proposals can be forwarded at any time of the year.

Course Being Proposed: HS Orchestra

Proposal submitted by: Casey Hounsell and Jack Giuliano

School: New Fairfield High School

1. Indicate the department/grade level in which this course/program will run.

Visual and Performing Arts: 9-12 Orchestra (non-audition ensemble)

2. Please indicate if the new course or instructional program is a semester long or year long, and indicate the applicable grade levels. Please indicate the course level if applicable.

This will be a year-long course open to students in grades 9-12.

3. Please give the rationale for this proposal, and include its relationship to the past, current and future development of curricular offerings in New Fairfield.

New Fairfield Public Schools has a strong tradition of supporting the arts, as evidenced by the strength of its existing band, choir, theater, and music technology program. The district has expanded its performing arts programming to meet the evolving needs and interests of its students.

Over the past several years, the district has grown an orchestra program at the elementary school and through the middle school grades. Students who have participated in this orchestra program at the elementary and middle school are now positioned to enter the high school in order to continue to play instruments such as violin, viola, and cello, and expand to such instruments as bass.

We look now to extend the orchestra program into New Fairfield High School for students currently in the program (now in eighth grade) to continue to this next step in their progression. Introducing an orchestra would honor the district's commitment to the orchestra program specifically and performing arts broadly, meet the needs of our current and future students, and strengthen our existing high school music department.

4. Please indicate the target population for this proposal.

The targeted population for this course proposal are the current middle school orchestra students (11 eighth graders, 10 seventh graders, and 6 sixth graders) as they progress from the middle school into the high school beginning in the 25-26 school year. This course would also allow current high school students who previously did not continue with a stringed instrument in high school to have the option to return to that instrument.

5. Please explain if this course or instructional program is an addition or a replacement for an existing course or program.

The orchestra program at the high school would be an additional program to the current music department.

6. List any prerequisites for this course or instructional program.

While intended for students who have participated in orchestra in middle school, this class would be open to all students of all skill levels in grades 9-12.

7. Please write a short description of the new course or instructional program that would be suitable for the high school *Program of Studies* or for a curriculum document.

Orchestra is a performance-based ensemble course designed for students who play string instruments (violin, viola, cello, and double bass). The class focuses on developing individual and ensemble musicianship through the study and performance of a diverse repertoire. Students will improve their technical skills, music reading, and musicality while expanding their understanding of music theory and music history. Participation in rehearsals and performances, including concerts and festivals, is an essential component of the course. This class is open to students of all skill levels, grades 9-12.

8. Please list the long-term course or program goals that define the broad outcomes that this course or program seeks to help students achieve.

Establishing orchestra at the high school level would provide a sequential string program, grades 3-12, in the district, ensuring students have consistent access to high-quality instruction from elementary through high school. Such a coherent program can allow for students to continue to pursue orchestra post-high school if desired or maintain an appreciation and enjoyment of a string instrument throughout their lives. This orchestra program would also then mirror the current band and choir programs, ensuring equity across all musical disciplines. In addition, it would provide the opportunity for collaboration between band, choir, and orchestra, enriching the overall music education experience for all students.

9. Please indicate what topics, units, or material will be used to meet the long-term goals listed above. What assessment strategies will be used in this course or program? What are the unique components of this course or program content that make it a worthwhile addition for our students?

The curriculum would be split into 2 expansive units in which students learn new techniques and musical skills that fall under the NAFME standards for their grade levels. Each one of these units will be facilitated with proper musical selection and demonstration. Their learning and growth each semester will culminate in a winter and spring concert which will serve as an assessment for their progress. The end goal of this course is to provide students with genuine performance skills and strategies that will assist in all musical endeavors as well as public demonstration.

10. Please enumerate the resources – both human and financial – that you anticipate will be needed to develop this course or program correctly. What impact would this proposal have on scheduling, staffing, and resources? Consider training, equipment and space needs.

This course requires an additional 1.0 FTE who would implement the high school and middle school strings program. In terms of resources, some funds in the performing arts budget would be needed to provide sheet music and instrument maintenance supplies. The current high school band and chorus rooms are available spaces for the orchestra and schedules will be coordinated to allow for access. Instruments and other supplies in the program are also supported by the Fine Arts Boosters and other grants from the PTO.

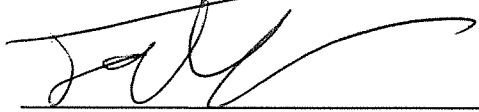
11. If this course will require a textbook, what is the title and cost estimate of a likely text?

Concert repertoire - 3-4 winter concert songs, 3-4 spring concert songs, 3-4 district concert songs, estimated at \$65/song.

12. What impact will this course/program proposal have upon other courses/programs currently being offered in the district?

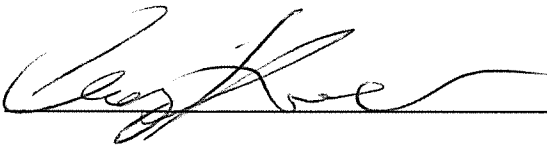
This course continues the current district goal of expanding the strings program throughout the schools. It will complete the high school curriculum to provide performing arts ensemble courses for band, chorus, and strings currently available in grades 3-8. It would also allow a continuation of the already-established classes as well as establish a culminating course for string students.

Signatures of those making this proposal:

 12/10/24

Teacher

Date

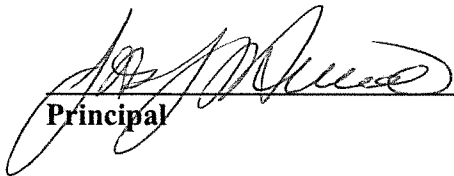
 12/10/24

Department Chair (if applicable)

Date

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Updated January 2020

 12/11/24

Principal

Date

 12/11/24

Assistant Superintendent

Date

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