

Memo



To: Dr. Karla Guseman
From: Dianne McDonald
Date: January 29, 2025
Re: Course Addition – Music Production

I respectfully recommend the addition of Music Production for the 2026-2027 school year. This .5 credit course would be offered as a semester long, unweighted elective to grades 9-12 students. This course would replace the semester elective, Music Appreciation 1.

A Music Production class would enhance student learning and increase diversity within the music program. According to the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation, schools with music programs have a graduation rate approximately 17% higher than those without (“The Positive Influence”). While Joliet Township has a thriving music department, many students do not currently participate. A Music Production course would provide opportunities for students with different musical interests, particularly those who may not engage in traditional ensembles.

In their book *Electronic Music School*, Will Kuhn and Ethan Hein highlight barriers to participation in traditional music programs: “*Because of the costs of instruments and lessons, ensemble participants are more likely to be socioeconomically privileged than the school population generally. The Eurocentrism of traditional ensembles and programs often makes them unappealing to Black and Latino students*” (Kuhn and Hein, 23). By offering Music Production, we can make music education more inclusive and accessible.

This course will provide students with hands-on training in modern music creation. Students will utilize pre-programmed sounds, self-created music, and recorded audio to produce original compositions, commercials, soundtracks, and soundscapes. Additionally, the course will incorporate cross-disciplinary connections to:

- Physics (studying sound waves and timbre)
- Marketing, Writing, and Acting (creating commercial jingles)

By integrating non-traditional music creation methods, this course will expand opportunities for students to engage in music education in ways that align with contemporary industry standards.

This course addition was discussed and approved by the Curriculum Coordinating Council.

Thank you and please let me know if you have further questions.