

RE: Sixth Grade General Music Curriculum

To Mr. Erlebach and members of the Neah-Kah-Nie school board:

For the 2015-2016 school year the sixth grade beginning choir class was changed to a sixth grade music exploration class. This change brought with it several benefits including:

- Increased student engagement.
- Access to a wider variety musical interests and subjects.
- More opportunities to include reading and writing in a music class.

Curriculum for the class was developed over the course of the school year by me. This brought some success but was not as engaging and purposeful as it should be. By the end of the first year it was clear that a professionally developed curriculum was needed.

Last school year Neah-Kah-Nie middle school received forty ukuleles as a contest prize; a community member entered the school into the contest. This presented a unique opportunity to include the ukulele as part of the curriculum. A search for a general music curriculum that included ukulele started at the beginning of the school year. At the Oregon Music Educator Conference in Eugene, Oregon I found a curriculum that would meet the needs of the sixth grade music exploration class and bring additional content to other middle school music classes.

This curriculum was *Quaver's Beyond Marvelous General Music Curriculum*. Here are some things about this curriculum that caught my interest:

- It is comprehensive, covering many different areas of music
- The curriculum is customizable. I can add my own material if needed.
- The curriculum is online and I can access anywhere I have an internet connection.
- It is aligned with state and national standards.
- The ukulele is included in the curriculum.
- Classroom presentation is made easier with prepared presentations and interactive software.
- Some of the curriculum is project based.

I piloted the curriculum during the second trimester of this school year. I used the curriculum to help the music exploration class write, rehearse and perform a short musical. Students were busy creating a script, lyrics, and some melodies. The musical was performed for the middle school student body on the 20th of April and was very successful. Piloting the program helped me understand what adaptations I would need to make to my classroom and teaching style to successfully implement the curriculum

I would support and encourage the adoption of this curriculum. The curriculum is subscription based. A 2 year 6-8 General Curriculum subscription is \$1,575.00. A 5 year 6-8 General Curriculum subscription is \$3,250.00. If you have any questions please contact me.

Sincerely,

Russell Zaugg