

Fine Arts Board Report: 2019

Submitted by Mr. Kyle Hammers

High School Music

The high school band has been having a great year! This winter, the band has been focused on pep band, the district solo/ensemble festival, and district large group festival. The pep band has been rocking at nearly all home basketball games! They are excited to have added a few new tunes to their repertoire for these games. The pep band has really been kicking into gear when a handful of alumni have come back to play at their side. During the school day, most students in band are preparing music in a small group or by themselves to be performed at the solo/ensemble festival. This requires individuals to guide their own learning, and to perform music with little help from a teacher. Students are excited for the remaining concerts, festivals, and musical opportunities throughout the year.

The Choral Department has had a really great start to the school year. All Fall and Holiday Concerts were very successful. Six high school students participated in the Upper St Croix Valley Music Association Honors Choir Festival in December. Students traveled to Siren High School to rehearse and perform with students from our surrounding nine schools. Mr. Hammers was very proud of how the students conducted themselves and represented the Unity Music Department.



Broadway performers from Elf The Musical did a presentation to all music students, grades 6-12. We were lucky to have both lead actors, the Music Director, and a trumpet player from the Pit Orchestra.



High School Pep Band students at a high school football game.



High School Jazz Band students on stage with UW-Eau Claire Jazz 2 ensemble when they came to perform in November.



Honors Choir Students with the guest director, Jesse Baumgart.



High School Band at the Fall Concert



High School Pep Band students at a high school football game.



UW-Eau Claire Jazz 2 performed at Unity. High School Jazz students joined them on stage for their last song to get up close to the action.

Middle School Music

This has been a very productive year in middle school band and choir so far. The beginning of the year started out strong with the 7th and 8th grade band and choir doing a wonderful job on their first concert. The 6th grade band also had a successful concert in December for their holiday performance.

Currently the middle school music room is a very busy place. 5th grade beginning band has started. Fifth Grade Choir is getting under way. Up to this point they have been participating in Beginning Band and General Music. Students have been working hard on music literacy, which is the ability to identify music symbols and what they mean. 5th graders are excited for their first Middle School Concert this spring 6th grade band has been working hard in their band books learning new notes, rhythms, symbols and musical terms. They have also been working on their sight reading skills which will help them prepare for the music they will be playing for the upcoming 6th grade band festival and concert in the spring. The 7th and 8th choir and band classes have been preparing for Solo and Ensemble which will be held on February 14th in Amery. Students have been hard at work learning solos, duets, trios, and other events to be performed for a judge. Students have been learning and practicing their music with pride and it is great to see them grow as young musicians. They will also start preparing for the spring concert in May.

Besides preparing for concerts and other performances, the middle school band and choir will be attending different professional performances throughout the year. The 7th grade students attended a Minnesota Orchestra concert that was being performed at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis in January. The 8th graders have the option this year to accompany the high school music students to a Broadway performance of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory at the Orpheum Theatre also in Minneapolis. These are both great opportunities for students. Overall this has been an exciting and successful year for middle school band and choir.



Another picture of 7th Grade Music Students at Orchestra Hall

7th Grade Students Traveled to Orchestra Hall to see the Minnesota Orchestra perform a Young People's Concert on January 18th.



Middle School Honors Band Students at the Shell Lake Arts Center



Middle School Jazz Band meets during lunch

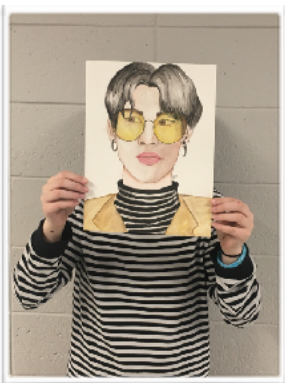
Elementary Music

There were many positive changes made to the Elementary Music curriculum. Students in all elementary grade levels receive both direct instruction and kinesthetic fine motor centers. Implementing Habits of Mind and Individualized personal learning plans. This approach allows Ms. Pauslen to work with special needs, and gifted students, as well as one on one assessments. Students are able to get immediate feedback. This approach has been very beneficial to students learning. Every grade performs for the community at least once and often twice a year.

Fourth grade performs in the fall. This year they performed at the Veterans Day program as well. 1st grade performs the Thankful program in November. Third grade and Busy Bugs performed in December. Kindergarten sang the national anthem at a basketball game and performs the circus. 1st and 2nd grade will perform the spring musical. Busy Bugs Ice cream social and Kindergarten Graduation is at the end of May.

High School Art

HS Arts participation is gaining in popularity and there is an increase in quality of work. Art is a high interest and engaging class. Enrollments have been increasing in recent years. The average class size in arts classes is 20 students. There are increased Course offerings due to student requests. Currently, the High School Art Department offers 15 courses, 4 new for 2019-2020 school year. Students are encouraged to find intrinsic value in their work. There is evidence is this through capstone exploratory statements of the past and current including: fluid acrylics, photo-realism in color, journaling through drawing, copper enameling, photographic documentary-a day in the life. Art promotes Habits of mind principles such as the ability to envision, engaging and persisting, reflecting and observing, stretching and exploring.



Middle School Art

During the period of time from the last middle school art update, grades 5th -8th grade students have been growing in the knowledge of different art techniques, elements of design and artists.

5th Grade-Students wrote and designed their own comic strips integrating language arts with the fine arts. Following that, they looked at the artist Keith Haring, who was made famous by creating art with the similar style as comics. Transitioning to another artist, Henry Matisse they created similar artwork to these artists to learn that there are so many different styles of art. The Keith Haring images that were created have been on display in the middle school hallway. After patiently waiting for many months, they started the much anticipated clay unit where they learned the slab technique. They are finishing up their tumblers this week.

6th Grade-After spending some time on a textile, coil baskets. The sixth graders created winter, birch tree landscapes with chalk pastels and paint. These have been on display in the middle school hallway. Following that, they created Egyptian cartouches using a metal embossing process, integrating their current social studies unit with fine arts. They are currently working on a 2-part project, looking at the art of Wayne Theibaud. The first part is creating a cake in perspective with a slice missing and then creating that missing slice in clay.

7th Grade-With the start of a new trimester, there is a new group of 7th grade students. They will be working on a similar group of projects with an additional focus on Studio Habits of Mind. They have already completed zentangle animals, crushed cans, and lino block printing of their own personal logos. They are quickly moving on to clay chia pets. After every lesson they have an opportunity to reflect on the work they are completing within the framework of Studio Habits of Mind.

8th Grade - 8th graders currently are working on monochromatic portrait paintings. Proud eighth graders Maggie Brown, and Alexandra Tourville, practiced techniques while learning vocabulary associated with monochromatic self portraits. They find value in their work and are being recognized through local contests. In the past two years there has been two Helen Mears Art Contest eighth grade award recipients at the state level. This year the program will send several strong submissions with the hope of a return visit at the state level. The arts program is also participating in the St. Croix Regional Medical Center celebration of their 100th year anniversary. The theme is "Living life at 100%".



Elementary Art

In Elementary Art, the Habits of Mind are being integrated into the art lessons. Students are able to work on soft skills in many ways. Fourth graders are currently learning about collaborative art. They are practicing HOM #3 listening with understanding, #4 thinking flexibly and #15 thinking interdependently. (the girls pictured working on the drawing are also incorporating Habit of Mind #14 Finding Humor!)

