

DIXON PUBLIC SCHOOLS #170

"A Place to Grow"

1335 Franklin Grove Road
Dixon, Illinois 61021

Phone: (815) 373-4966
Fax: (815) 284-8576

MEMORANDUM

To: Mrs. Margo Empen
From: Doug Stansford
Re: RMS Band and Choir
Date: 10/10/25

It is my recommendation that the board of education approve the addition of the Music First curriculum resource at Reagan Middle School. The Middle School music teachers started piloting this resource in March.

What is Music First

- Online collection of courses, units, lessons, and assessments within the MusicFirst Classroom
- Content is selected and curated by a team of music educators
- Wide range of material ready for classroom use
- Materials are easily customizable for needs of individual curricula, classrooms, and students

Summary of Programs

- Music First classroom
 - Central hub for software, portfolios, gradebook, communication tools, and curricular resources
- Auralia
 - Comprehensive training software for theory/aural skills
 - Ear training, Vocabulary practice
- Musition
 - Music theory practice
 - Differentiated levels
- Practice first
 - Practice software, gives students instant feedback, helps learn practice skills
 - Can be done anywhere at any time
- Sight Reading Factory
 - Builds sight reading skill which will help future learning become faster
 - Sight reading examples are customizable to fit your needs
- Specific concepts or focuses of unit study
 - Casts each example in live time to student chrome books

Dixon Public Schools, in cooperation with the community, will provide students with a comprehensive educational program that produces well-educated, self-sufficient, and involved citizens.

Benefits for Reagan Middle School

- User friendly
 - Can be accessed on any device (easy for students to work on)
 - Can be easily linked into our canvas pages, customized, controlled, and graded
 - Any & all of our music can be uploaded into it, we can use any of our music as an assessment
- Faster feedback
 - Student & teacher can go over it together, easily understood by student what to fix
 - Promotes student ownership of learning
- Evidence for parents
 - Non-musicians sometimes struggle to understand our grading process. This system will allow parents to see EXACTLY the errors their kids are making
- Enhances our current curriculum
 - Currently we use a method book which each student purchases and musical pieces from our band library
 - This will integrate technology into our classroom and add to those learning tools
- Aligns with Illinois State standards for music and current curriculum map outlined for our program
 - All of these programs will help students Create (Noteflight- composing), Perform (Practice First, SightReading Factory), Respond (Auralia) and Connect (all of the above).
 - Vertical alignment of assessments in all of these areas

Cost

- Cost is per user at \$14 per account
 - Students in both band and choir only need 1 account
 - 196 students - \$2744

Dixon Public Schools, in cooperation with the community, will provide students with a comprehensive educational program that produces well-educated, self-sufficient, and involved citizens.