

Minidoka County School District

Elementary Music Proposal

April 15, 2019

The purpose of reintroducing elementary band and orchestra is to bolster the numbers and boost the quality of the middle and high school music programs.

A few concerns have been raised by the elementary principals in implementing this program. The elementary principals place a priority on reading instruction, so rearranging schedules to have prep for upper grades in the afternoon was not an option. All four elementary schools have agreed to rearrange daily schedules to have common prep times. Having the adequate space for the program is also a primary concern for all elementary schools, as they do not have empty classrooms available for this program to use. In most schools, the program will be housed on the stage, a closet, or a teacher's classroom, which is not ideal for the teacher on prep. Clear and consistent communication will be essential to the success of the program as their schedules adapt and adjust.

These concerns have been addressed by moving the music schedule to the morning and teaching music during everyone's prep so students will never miss any reading, math, or science classes. Heyburn is the only school where we will have to use teachers classrooms and we have talked with two of the fifth grade teachers who are willing to share their space two days a week each so one will be the orchestra room and one will be the band room with agreement to be flexible on both sides in the future depending on teacher prep needs.

In meeting with the elementary principals, despite needing to work around schedules and space limitations, they all voiced excitement about this program getting started in their schools. The conversations revolved around this program being good for kids and worth the struggle to make it work.

Proposed Weekly Schedule

Orchestra and Band will alternate schools, but follow the same schedule Monday through Thursday:

9:45-10:30 Heyburn

11:00-11:45 Paul

9:30-10:15 Rupert

10:35-11:10 Acequia

Proposed Annual Schedule

- The classes will start the first full week of school (August 26 – 29)
- There will be no classes on Parent Teacher Conference Days (October 10, January 30)
- There may be changes the week before Christmas Break and the last week of school due to possible conflicts with other scheduled activities
- If either of the music teachers are absent classes would be cancelled

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Projected Costs

District - We are thrilled to have the support of the District and anticipate the only additional funding costs to be added mileage reimbursement.

Mileage for Orchestra:	11 miles on days for Rupert and Acequia (x .45/mile \$4.95/day)
	22 miles on days for Heyburn and Paul (x .45/mile \$9.90/day)
Mileage for Band:	18 miles on days for Rupert and Acequia (x .45/mile \$8.10/day)
	14 miles on days for Heyburn and Paul (x .45/mile \$6.30/day)

Students - will need to buy their own instruction books and rent instruments through local music stores: Welch, Acadia or Dunkley's. There are music stands at Paul, the other schools' students will need to purchase portable music stands. Local rental prices vary from \$20/month on up depending on the instrument, portable music stand \$15, instruction book \$10.

Other Considerations and Concerns

Locations in each building where it will be held:

- Rupert - cafeteria
- Acequia - alternating between music room and library (depending on day), the time is during lunch
- Heyburn - 5th grade classrooms, with cooperation from 5th grade teachers and flexibility of rotation
- Paul - storage room off of cafeteria or storage room off the faculty room

Summary

The short and long term goal of the band program is to have a respectably large and good quality high school band program. The numbers of incoming freshmen from the middle schools are low. Starting students a year earlier with good quality instruction in music reading and instrumental technique will help alleviate some of the issues we have faced.

We have attached a 10-year plan outlining our hopes for the Orchestra program in Minidoka County. Music is good for kids, and Orchestra is a great way to get to the kids who are not drawn by band or choir. Other benefits of early instrumental education are also linked in the attached document. In the past five years, our program has been growing, and gaining notoriety throughout our region of the state. Our goal is to have a program that is truly able to compete with large programs from large districts in the state. Most of those programs are located in larger, more affluent places in the state with funds available to many families for private lessons from a young age. By starting our students earlier in elementary school, we will help them to be competitive on the state level once they reach high school. Someday, when people are talking about string programs in the state of Idaho, we want to be on the list of well-known, successful, respected programs. Reintroducing strings to the elementary schools is one of the next steps in that process.

[Link to 10 year MCSD music plan](#)