

Fine Arts: Music

School Committee Update November 9, 2021

(Fine Arts: Visual Art update will be later this year)



Fine Arts: Music

- How COVID has impacted Music education in MA and Bellingham
- How we pivoted ... and what we learned
- What we are doing to accelerate learning
- New programs and initiatives
- Student recognition and leadership



Music: Pre-Pandemic

- Music program had been gradually and consistently growing
- 2019-2020 started off as the best year on record in my 20 years ... in terms of student achievement, highest learning expectations, student enrollment, co-curricular involvement and community outreach
- All Town Chorus Concert was the last major music performance we were able to run - all of grade 4, grade 5 chorus of 50 students, plus the grades 6 & 7 chorus, 8th grade chorus and high school chorus.
- All Town Band Concert was the first major cancellation ...



Music: Spring 2020 - June 2021

- All virtual learning but we were able to have students pick up instruments and music right away and keep learning
- MA DESE did not allow playing instruments inside school buildings until November 2020 - and only then with 10 foot spacing and masks
- MA DESE did not allow singing inside school buildings until January 2021 and only then with 10 foot spacing and masks
- Remember - virtual meets meant that everyone had to play/sing on MUTE due to time delays. It was a very challenging learning environment and very isolating.
- Singing and playing at elementary schools was not possible due to space limitations.
- Singing and playing at BMS was limited to virtual on Wednesdays, General Music for all grades in-person.
- BHS ran hybrid schedule with music courses in Block Scheduling. Chorus in the Fall was never allowed to sing inside. We had to move to the Auditorium for space.



Music: 2020 - 2021

- Virtual performance videos were created - very time consuming but gave us common goals and some opportunity to showcase our work
- Jazz Band, Color Guard and private lessons all ran as virtual activities
- BHS Jazz Band had an outside performance in June 2021
- BHS Concert Band performed at graduation in June 2021
- With the support of ESSR Grants and Mrs. Rafferty, we organized and offered a 1 week summer music program in August led by music staff.
 - Approximately 40 students participated including 9 high school student mentors and 4 faculty
- Marching Band & Color Guard went back to typical rehearsals in August 2021 but with revised COVID protocols







Music: 2021 - 2022

- DESE updated music protocols to 3 foot spacing with masks and bell covers suggested for wind instruments.
- No masks or bell covers needed outside
- Full performance calendar is scheduled
- All co-curricular music activities are running in person - Marching Band, Color Guard, private music lessons, Jazz Band





Faculty Updates

Ms. Braman is the new BHS Chorus Director (formerly at Stall Brook & BMS)

Mr. Stevens is the new Stall Brook music teacher and BMS music teacher for part of the week.



Elementary Update

- Singing is back in elementary school music! And music teachers are back in their classrooms instead of traveling carts from last year.
- New music faculty at Stall Brook - Adam Stevens joins us as a new teacher from the University of Rhode Island.
- Mr. Stevens and Mrs. Deary (DiPietro) worked together on the previous Prof. Development Day to align curriculum and visited each other's schools.
- Mrs. Deary is working on plans to have some seasonal music selections recorded in lieu of in-person concerts. Mr. Stevens will be working on school presentations for the spring or next year.



Memorial School Update: Chorus & General Music

- All grades have restarted chorus under the guidance of Ms. Signa. We have ensembles preparing for the BMS Winter Chorus Concert on Thursday, December 2, 2021.
- The 4th grade will be participating in the Link Up program put on by Carnegie Hall and the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra.
 - Students will learn to play different orchestral pieces on the recorder and then attend a Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra concert in May. At this concert, students will learn about the orchestra and will have the opportunity to play along with the orchestra on their recorders.
- 6th Grade no longer has weekly Music class due to schedule, this needs to be explored and addressed for 2022-2023
- 7th Grade no longer has General Music due to schedule
- 4th Grade Chorus meets as 3 smaller ensembles with 3 music teachers to avoid having the full grade level together at once.



Memorial School Update: Band

- 5th Grade last year did not start band as beginners as in a typical year. So 5th grade AND 6th grade are beginners in the band program.
- Scheduling has been challenging for grades 6 & 7 due to loss of learning minutes in master schedule.
- We see a dip in enrollment for 6th and 7th grade band/instrumental and chorus, which we attribute to the pandemic
- This year, 5th grade band enrollment is in the typical range of 100-120 students.
- More requests for instruments loans from the school and assistance with accessories from families, there is need. Repaired and sanitized a lot of instruments over the summer.



Memorial School Update: Band

- In 5th and 6th Grade Bands, students are hard at work learning those very first songs you hear when students start an instrument; classics such as *Hot Cross Buns*, *Mary Had a Little Lamb*, and *Go Tell Aunt Rhody* are once again ringing through the music rooms at BMS!
- 7th Grade Band is working on two pieces of literature for the winter concert; *Glorioso* and *Holiday Rock*. This group is a combination of 3rd year musicians as well as a handful of returning or beginning musicians, and they are making great progress together as a team! They are looking forward to debuting their music at the concert!





I'm with the band!



I'm with the band!



I'm with the band!



I'm with the band!



I'm with the band!



I'm with the band!



I'm with the band!



High School Update: Chorus

- Kaitlyn Braman is our Chorus Director at BHS now. She recently completed her masters degree with a focus in choral conducting from Rhode Island College.
- Chorus is back to almost typical, singing with masks is not ideal but we are working through it.
- Chorus classes last year only met class for ½ the school year, coupled with hybrid and virtual learning, we are seeing a very wide range of student ability levels in these courses.



High School Update: Music electives

- **New course: Beginning Piano, semester elective course**
 - This course also has optional college credit through Rhode Island College Early Enrollment program. 4 credits for \$260 or free/reduced lunch \$130. Ms. Forte is the instructor. (She also offers American Popular Music for college credit through this program)
- **Electives this year: Digital Music Production, Ukulele, 8th Grade Music Appreciation**
- **Next year: American Popular Music, Guitar, and maybe a Digital Music Production II or a Film & Music course**
- **Music Tech computer lab is now fully operational with new iMac desktops, Garage Band, Adobe Suite, recording microphones, etc. We are sharing this iMac lab with Graphic Design and Animation.**



High School Update: Band

- **Marching Band is now open to grades 8 - 12 as a co-curricular model. We are now in line with the vast majority of MA districts as a optional marching band. Marching Band is no longer required for Concert Band students. (you may have seen us a little smaller at football games and this is why, but it's OK!)**
- **8th Grade Band and Concert Band courses are back to almost normal, with PPE and 3 foot spacing.**
- **8th Grade last year only had class for ½ the school year, coupled with hybrid and virtual learning, we are seeing a very wide range of student ability levels in these courses.**
- **7th Grade Band last year was completely virtual until April and then only once per week so we are happy to be back in person with a smaller, but dedicated group.**




High School Updates

- BHS Concert Band recorded and shared a 9/11 Anniversary video on Youtube.
- We have partnered with Cable 8 to have some in-school recording sessions. The first one is this week on Friday. We hope to distribute links to these sessions to the community - mini-performances. In December, we have planned for Cable 8 to record and then broadcast our concerts the following day. This will be especially helpful for audience members who cannot attend the performance in person. We hope it will be better quality than Facebook live. We appreciate the hard work of the Cable 8 staff - Patrick Fleming and Tyler McMinniman
- BHS Chorus and BMS Chorus are returning to the Town Common Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Tri-M Music Honor Society will be activated this year, probably starting in January. Official music honor society from the National Association of Music Educators.









BELLINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Note-worthy!

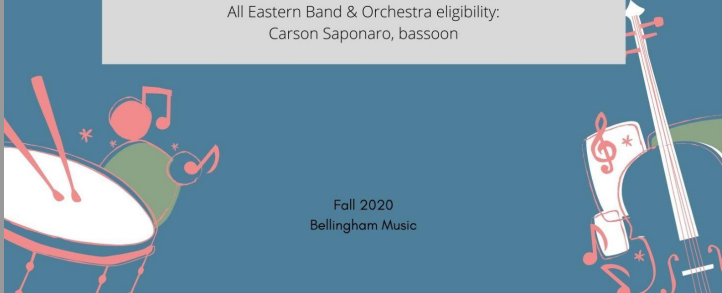
Congratulations to these students!

Massachusetts Central District Music Education Association
Honors Choir: Landen Davong, tenor voice;
Landon Gibbs, bass voice and Sean Lafond, tenor voice

Massachusetts Central District Music Education Association
Honors Concert Band: Erik Ormberg, bass clarinet;
Carson Saponaro, bassoon; Hannah Silva, euphonium
and Colin Thibeault, euphonium

Massachusetts Music Educators Association
All State Recommendation:
Landen Davong, tenor voice; Sean Lafond, tenor voice;
Erik Ormberg, bass clarinet; Carson Saponaro, bassoon;
and Hannah Silva, euphonium

National Association for Music Educators Association
All Eastern Band & Orchestra eligibility:
Carson Saponaro, bassoon



Fall 2020
Bellingham Music



BELLINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL 2021-2022

Student Leaders

Concert Band

Flute - Lucy Sullivan

Clarinet - Bella Bellanti & Julia Burr

Alto Saxes - Dan Kurezy & Casey Hasselbaum

Low Reeds - Arti LaCroix & Carson Saponaro

Horn - Katie Matczak

Trumpets - Natalie Krysta, Jacob Milligan
& Megan Perkins

Trombones - Elsa Robinson

Low Brass - Hannah Silva & Colin Thibeault

Percussion - Gretchen Ames

Chorus

Sopranos - Mallory Simpson

Altos - Allison Sawyer

Baritone - Landen Davong

Chorus Manager - Lucy Sullivan

Marching Band

Senior Drum Major - Natalie Krysta

Junior Drum Major - Arti LaCroix

Flutes & Clarinets - Lucy Sullivan

Saxophones - Casey Hasselbaum

High Brass - Jacob Milligan & Megan Perkins

Low Brass - Hannah Silva & Colin Thibeault

Drumline - Gretchen Ames

Guard Captains - Megan Perkins & Cassandra Senna



Update: how we compare to other districts through this

- We were fortunate to be in a district where we could address procedures and protocols in a smaller setting. But on the flip side, we are a small staff so we had less help to tackle things.
- In some ways we were ahead of the curve with technology and some in-person ensembles. In other ways, we were not able to offer as much as other districts due to challenges with schedule, staffing, space restrictions. Ms. Forte would say we were about middle of the pack.



Things that have helped us ...

- We kept a growth mindset but also acknowledged that this is not normal. We recognized remote and hybrid teaching was not even remotely close to what music teachers are trained to do.
- Ms. Forte and other music staff kept in touch with MA music educators throughout the pandemic through our professional organizations such as MICCA and the MA Music Educators Association.
- We had access to Prof. Dev. through our district and we voluntarily attended round table discussions, summer workshops and casual Zoom sessions with other music teachers and professional musicians from MIT and the Boston Symphony Orchestra.
- Bellingham Friends of Music have continued to actively fundraise - they supported several projects like paying for the video technician for the BMS Music & Art Video Pictures at an Exhibition, private lesson scholarships, senior scholarships, miscellaneous supplies and we even had visiting clinicians come to our Google Meets!



Thank yous

- Students and families who have tried their best and persevered!
- Central Admin for support with ESSER funding for music PPE, sanitization, etc.
- Mrs. Rafferty's office for the support of the Summer Music Camp and professional development for music teachers. LSDO Music Prof. Dev. at Foxboro was amazing!
- ESSER Phase III - we were allotted specific music resources through the Fine Arts and Enrichment account lines (Thank you Cindy Haley-Higgins!)
 - Summer program, new programming and instruments, music tutoring support, technology, etc.
- Bellingham Friends of Music
- Building principals and Directors Mr. Garofano and Mr. Connor
- Mrs. Lafayette and Mrs. Luuri for their commitment to hiring highly qualified educators with inclusive and thorough application procedures and interviews.
- Support staff - especially our custodial staff!



Support moving forward ...

- Understanding that our program is very different from 2-3 years ago. We are building back better, it will take time.
- Our enrollment has a dip in some programs due to pandemic learning, but the new 5th and 6th grade numbers are back to typical by percentage of overall class sizes. We already see a rebound, but those grade level dips will take years to work all the way through as the incoming students move through the programs.

	2019-2020	2021-2022
5th Grade Band	115	94 (smaller class)
6th Grade Band	60	52
7th Grade Band	55	25
8th Grade Band	40	15
Concert Band, gr. 9 - 12	93	58



Support moving forward ...

- Understanding and support on class sizes and scheduling so we can continue to provide learning opportunities and not risk cancelling access to courses, programs and opportunities for all students.
- Students need engaging, hands-on Fine Arts courses. Our philosophy is to be playing, singing and moving as much as possible. Students need this more than ever.
- Social-emotional connection is important in our area, being together after so much isolation. Being part of an ensemble can also be challenging for some students after during the pandemic norms of less social interaction.
- Growth mindset. Positive reinforcement. Proactive and open communication.



Upcoming Performances and Events

Winter Concerts:

- BMS Chorus Concert: Thursday, December 2, 2021 at BHS at 7 p.m.
- BMS Band Concert: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at BHS at 7 p.m.
- BHS Concert, bands and choirs: Thursday, December 9, 2021 at BHS at 7 p.m.

We anticipate these concerts will be recorded and broadcast through Cable 8. All concerts are free and open to the public. We are suggesting 2 adults per student for these events to allow for social distancing. Masks are required in all school buildings per the MA DESE.

Friends of Music Online Auction:

- Now accepting donations of products and service for the auction! Visit www.BellinghamMusic.org to learn more. The Auction will run online Friday, December 3rd through Saturday, December 10th



*Stay tuned for more from
Bellingham Music!*

