

**MUSIC**

**PRIMARY GOAL** - To gain an appreciation and basic understanding of the various music forms as an opportunity for personal expression.

<b><u>Staff</u></b>	<b><u>Students</u></b>	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Cost Per Student</u></b>
22.10	5,392	\$2,133,610	\$ 396

**A. Student Achievement/Program Data and Implications**

<b>ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAM SCORES – MUSIC THEORY</b>			
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>PERCENT SCORING THREE OR BETTER</b>	<b>NUMBER TESTED</b>	<b>PERCENT OF TOTAL GRADUATES</b>
2007-08	86%	7	1.4%
2006-07	100%	4	.2%
2005-06	100%	1	.05%

<b>SHS FINAL EXAM SCORES</b>				
<b>COURSE</b>	<b>SCORED 85-100</b>	<b>SCORED 65-84</b>	<b>SCORED 55-64</b>	<b>SCORED BELOW 55</b>
Chorus	92%	7%	1%	--
Orchestra	100%	--	--	--
Symphonic Band	99%	1%	--	--
Wind Ensemble	100%	--	--	--
Music Theory 1/2	67%	27%	6%	--
Music Theory 3/4	72%	28%	--	--
Music in Our Lives 1/2	73%	17%	10%	--
World Percussion	80%	20%	--	--

<b>SHS MUSIC COMPETENCY SCORES FOR PERFORMING GROUPS</b>				
<b>COURSE</b>	<b>SCORED 85-100</b>	<b>SCORED 65-84</b>	<b>SCORED 55-64</b>	<b>SCORED BELOW 55</b>
Chorus	88%	8%	1%	3%
Orchestra	95%	5%	--	--
Symphonic Band	93%	6%	--	1%
Wind Ensemble	100%	--	--	--

## **MUSIC** (cont.)

Students take the Music Competency test to assess their knowledge of musical terms and rhythmic notation in various simple meters. The passing score for the exam is an 85, and any student who passes is exempt from the exam in subsequent years. The Wind Ensemble has a higher ratio of students who take private lessons and have more performance experience, and therefore often perform higher on the exam.

### **HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC ENROLLMENTS**

<b>COURSE</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2005-06</b>
Orchestra	79	85	88
Concert Band	167	167	174
Mixed Chorus	165	166	156
Music Theory 1-4	87	88	96
Applied Music	44	51	41
Music In Our Lives 1-2	44	57	45
World Percussion	10	10	12
Historical Perspectives of Music	13	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>571</b>
<b>FTE</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>486</b>
<b>FTE % Total SHS Enrollment</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>24%</b>

Enrollment in the high school music program remained fairly consistent. Instrumental lesson group sizes were greatly improved with the addition of staffing to teach Music Theory. The World Percussion class continues to pull excess percussionists from the SHS band program. A concert band includes a specific number of percussion instruments (bass drum, snare drum, timpani, etc.) and extra percussionists are left without any way of participating in class. World Percussion fills this curricular need by offering a separately scheduled class for percussionists, thereby increasing access to the same limited set of instruments. Historical Perspectives ran again, albeit at a slightly lower enrollment than anticipated due to student scheduling conflicts.

**MUSIC** (cont.)

**GRADES 7-8 PERFORMING GROUP ENROLLMENTS**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2007-08 Totals/ Percent of gr. 7- 8</b>	<b>2006-07/ Percent of gr. 7-8</b>
<b>Band</b>	88	69	157 (17%)	172 (20%)
<b>Chorus</b>	110	87	197 (21%)	200 (23%)
<b>Orchestra</b>	64	31	95 (10%)	83 (9%)
<b>Total</b>	262	187	449 (48%)	455 (52%)

**RETENTION RATES FROM GRADE 8 TO 9 – BY PERFORMING GROUP**

<b>Grade 8 to Grade 9</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2005-06</b>
Band	84%	76%	75%
Chorus	70%	70%	61%
Orchestra	91%	69%	77%

Trends in retention remain as areas of strong focus for the music department. The department is pleased with the retention rates into grade nine for 2007-08. The music staff continues to examine its practices surrounding recruitment into subsequent grades to determine methods in which we can positively affect retention.

**GRADE 4-6 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC ENROLLMENTS**

<b>GRADE</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2007-08 Totals/ Percent of grades 4-6</b>	<b>2006-07/ Percent of grades 4-6</b>
Band	193	164	136	493 (39%)	515 (41%)
Orchestra	133	115	83	331 (26%)	345 (27%)
Total	326	279	219	824 (65%)	860 (68%)

**GRADES 4-12 TOTAL PERFORMING GROUP ENROLLMENTS**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Grades 4-12 Performing Group Enrollments</b>	<b>Percentage of Enrollment in Grades 4- 12</b>
2007-08	2112	50%
2006-07	2156	51%
2005-06	2097	50%

## MUSIC (cont.)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- North Colonie musicians had opportunities to participate in many enrichment opportunities in music. Three SHS students were selected for the NYSSMA All-State festival. Twenty-four North Colonie students participated in this year's Suburban Council Music High School Festival. The entire district's 4<sup>th</sup> grade attended the Empire State Youth Orchestra's Young People's Concert. Twenty-four students participated in the Empire State Youth Orchestra performing groups. Eleven students will be pursuing a career in music. Three hundred and thirty-seven students performed solos and sixty-nine students performed ensembles (with some overlap of students) at the spring NYSSMA Solo and Ensemble Festivals. Ninety-eight percent (98%) of those students scored within the two highest possible ratings, a tremendous achievement.
- 2008 marked the fifth year that North Colonie students participated in the SPAC Class Action program. Fifth grade students were given a demonstration of *West Side Story Suite* by professional dancers at Shaker High School. On July 24<sup>th</sup>, seventy-five students, sixty of their family members and eleven North Colonie teachers attended the New York City Ballet performance at SPAC. This is the highest student participation in the district's history. Sixth grade students were given a demonstration about Holst's *The Planets* at Shaker High School, and music teachers connected the lessons to astronomy units in the sixth-grade science curriculum. On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, twenty-eight students, nine of their family members and five North Colonie teachers attended the Philadelphia Orchestra performance at SPAC.
- The music department worked closely with the North Colonie Friends of Music to organize the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Jazzaret, which was very successful. Comments from attendees were highly positive.
- North Colonie's performing groups were given many accolades this year. At the NYSSMA Major Organization Festival in April, the Southgate Select Chorus was awarded Silver. Five performing groups participated in the Great East Music Festival in Massachusetts. The SJHS/SHS group Syncopella was awarded a Platinum rating, and the SJHS groups Scherzo!, Select Band, Jazz Ensemble and Select Chorus were awarded Gold.
- North Colonie ensembles also performed extensively in the school and larger community. The Forts Ferry Singers and instrumentalists, the Southgate Select Chorus, and the SJHS eighth-grade band, chorus, and orchestra performed at the Colonie Center Mall in December. The Southgate Select Chorus traveled to a local nursing home along with Southgate band students, to perform for the

## **MUSIC** (cont.)

residents and give small gifts. The SG Select Chorus also performed the national anthem at a Siena basketball game.

- The SJHS Select Chorus performed at Our Lady of Hope, the Watervliet Elks Lodge Flag Day ceremony, and the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Ceremony. They sang the national anthem at a River Rats game. A volunteer chorus from the Select Chorus performed for a December memorial service and dinner at the Watervliet Elks Lodge. Scherzo! performed at a Board of Education meeting for Music and Art for Youth month.
- The SHS Chamber Players performed at the Shaker High School Senior Awards Ceremony and Veterans Day celebration. They performed carols at lunchtime in Shaker High School and as a benefit for the Northeast Regional Food Bank. Shaker Select performed at the Veterans Day celebration and at Flag Day, community meetings, and tree lighting ceremonies in the community.
- The SHS Jazz Ensemble performed for the Student Government Leadership Assembly and Jazzaret at Shaker High School, as well as at Blue Creek, Latham Ridge and Southgate Elementary Schools. The group also performed exceptionally well in many community performances, including at the Town of Colonie Senior Citizens Center Holiday Luncheon and the Rotary Club sponsored Food Pantry Silent Auction.
- The SHS “Principal’s Own” Marching Band performed in parades across the region.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

- Monitor and assess the effectiveness of textbooks, software and other resource materials in art and music and recommend any desired alternatives.

Evaluation: How did the departments monitor and assess the effectiveness of current and newly acquired or proposed textbooks, software and other resource materials? What recommendations, if any, were determined?

Software has been purchased and implemented into the high school Music Theory and Music in Our Lives classes. Teachers have begun to include some independent work on the notation and sequencing software and have expressed interest in further exploration of the programs and staff development. Music teachers at the junior high school have begun developing student projects which use the new software *Finale PrintMusic*. Music teachers across the district continue to use textbook funding to replace photocopied sheet music with originals. A plan was developed to purchase instrumental method books with district funds for the 2008-09 school year.

## **MUSIC** (cont.)

- Collaborate on art and music interdisciplinary projects and initiatives throughout the district.

Evaluation: How did the departments collaborate on art and music interdisciplinary projects and initiatives throughout the district?

During the November Workshop the junior high music and art staffs met to discuss several interdisciplinary projects. Ceramic artist in residence, Frank Giorgini, visited Accelerated Studio Art classrooms in late winter to work with students on the creation of Udo African drums. He returned with a musician to teach the students to play the drums they created. Plans to incorporate the Udo drums into a spring music performance are underway.

The music and art departments collaborated on the change in location for the District Art Show opening and the events planned for Music and Art for Youth month. The departments discussed common and overlapping needs in the area of instructional technology, and outlined a proposal for the technology budget at the junior high level which will introduce a shared portable lab for the 2008-09 school year. Finally, the teachers also had an open dialogue about the process and timeline for the identification of Accelerated Studio Art candidates, given the difficulties in scheduling music.

At the elementary level, teachers of both departments have been working cooperatively on plays, musicals and related performances in each school. Of special note, one elementary initiative involved the fifth grade students at Boght Hills School who created Valentine cards and performed music for the residents of St. Joseph's Provincial House in Latham, under the instruction of the music and art teachers.

At the high school level, the two departments combined efforts to introduce *The Norman Rockwell Suite*, part of the program at the December Art and Music Festival. The departments worked with the A/V department to arrange for artwork images to be projected on a screen while the piece was performed, and music students introduced the selection and the significance of artist and illustrator, Norman Rockwell prior to the performance.