

MUSIC

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

<u>Staff</u>	<u>Students</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Cost Per Student</u>
22.20	5,394	\$2,278,961	\$422

A. Student Achievement/Program Data and Implications

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAM SCORES – MUSIC THEORY			
YEAR	PERCENT SCORING THREE OR BETTER	NUMBER TESTED	PERCENT OF TOTAL GRADUATES
2008-09	100%	3	.1%
2007-08	86%	7	1.4%
2006-07	100%	4	.2%

SHS FINAL EXAM SCORES				
COURSE	SCORED 85-100	SCORED 65-84	SCORED 55-64	SCORED BELOW 55
Chorus	100%	7%	1%	--
Orchestra	97%	3%	--	--
Symphonic Band	99%	1%	--	--
Wind Ensemble	100%	--	--	--
Music Theory 1/2	38%	39%	23%	--
Music Theory 3/4	88%	12%	--	--
Music in Our Lives 1/2	55%	35%	10%	--
World Percussion	80%	20%	--	--

SHS MUSIC COMPETENCY SCORES FOR PERFORMING GROUPS				
COURSE	SCORED 85-100	SCORED 65-84	SCORED 55-64	SCORED BELOW 55
Chorus	89%	7%	4%	--
Orchestra	95%	5%	--	--
Symphonic Band	95%	5%	--	--
Wind Ensemble	100%	--	--	--

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Students take the Music Competency test to assess their knowledge of musical terms and rhythmic notation in various simple meters. The SHS Music department has made substantial revisions to the exam in recent years and is pleased with the results. 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

COURSE	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07
Orchestra	73	79	85
Concert Band	158	167	167
Mixed Chorus	155	165	166
Music Theory 1-4	75	87	88
Applied Music	39	44	51
Music In Our Lives 1-2	47	44	57
World Percussion	11	10	10
Historical Perspectives of Music	0	13	0
TOTAL	558	565	573
FTE	447	475	485
FTE % Total SHS Enrollment	22%	23%	23%

Enrollment in the high school music program remained fairly consistent. 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 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 did not run due to lower enrollments this year. Music Theory saw a small dip in enrollment numbers for 2008-09 but enrollment for the 2009-10 school year is at its highest level ever.

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GRADES 7-8 PERFORMING GROUP ENROLLMENTS

Grade	7	8	2008-09 Totals/ Percent of gr. 7-8	2007-08 Totals/ Percent of gr. 7-8
Band	88	48	136 (14%)	157 (17%)
Chorus	129	75	204 (21%)	197 (21%)
Orchestra	60	23	83 (9%)	95 (10%)
Total	277	146	423 (44%)	449 (48%)

RETENTION RATES FROM GRADE 8 TO 9 – BY PERFORMING GROUP

Grade 8 to Grade 9	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07
Band	80%	84%	76%
Chorus	48%	70%	70%
Orchestra	78%	91%	69%

Trends in retention remain as areas of strong focus for the music department. Given the drastic changes in HS music staffing over the last two years, the department is largely pleased to see a typical number of students continuing on into the HS music program. Students in the chorus program were not aware of the choral director's retirement until after the 2007-08 year had been scheduled, so this was the first opportunity for that dip in retention to appear. The department has chosen to make an examination of retention and policies that have a positive affect on retention as areas of focus for the 2009-10 school year.

GRADE 4-6 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC ENROLLMENTS

GRADE	4	5	6	2008-09 Totals/ Percent of grades 4-6	2007-08 Totals/ Percent of grades 4-6
Band	181	182	131	494 (40%)	493 (39%)
Orchestra	129	105	83	317 (26%)	331(26%)
Total	310	287	241	838 (68%)	824 (65%)

GRADES 4-12 TOTAL PERFORMING GROUP ENROLLMENTS

Year	Total Grades 4-12 Performing Group Enrollments	Percentage of Enrollment in Grades 4- 12
2008-09	2036	48%
2007-08	2112	50%
2006-07	2156	51%

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HIGHLIGHTS

- North Colonie musicians had opportunities to participate in many enrichment opportunities in music. Ten SHS students were selected for NYSSMA Area All-State. Forty North Colonie students participated in this year's Suburban Council Music Middle School Festival, more than any other Suburban Council district for the second time. The entire district's 4th grade attended the Empire State Youth Orchestra's Young People's Concert. Forty-three students participated in the Empire State Youth Orchestra performing groups, more than any previous year. Two students will be pursuing a career in music. 309 students performed solos and ensembles at the spring NYSSMA Solo and Ensemble Festivals. 98% of those students scored within the two highest possible ratings, a tremendous achievement.
- The spring of 2009 marked the sixth year that North Colonie students participated in the SPAC Class Action program. Fifth grade students were given a demonstration of *Coppelia* by professional dancers at Shaker High School. On July 15th, 47 students, 32 of their family members and 6 North Colonie teachers attended the New York City Ballet performance at SPAC. Sixth grade students were given a demonstration about Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* and Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* at Shaker High School. On August 5th, 32 students, 14 of their family members and 5 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 7th 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 Shaker High School Wind Ensemble was awarded Gold. Six performing groups participated in the Great East Music Festival in Massachusetts. Syncopella and Select Chorus were awarded a Platinum rating, and the SJHS groups Scherzo!, Select Band, Jazz Ensemble and Treble Ensemble were awarded Gold.
- North Colonie students were singled out for exceptional achievements in music this year. A junior pianist at SHS was chosen to perform on "From the Top" on National Public Radio and granted a \$10,000 award, given to only 25 students nationwide. He also was honored with first prize in the Parillo Piano Competition and the Ithaca College Concerto Competition, and consequently performed with the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra and the Ithaca College Symphony Orchestra. He coordinated an assembly for the district's 4th grade along with two students in pre-college programs at Juilliard and the Manhattan School of Music. Additionally, SHS students received the Semper Fidelis Marine Corps Award, the

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AFL-CIO Tommy Ippolito Scholarship, and were honored as finalists at the Music Teachers National Association national piano duet competition and 2nd and 3rd prize in the Parillo Piano Competition.

- Students in North Colonie had the opportunity to experience performances by renowned performers within their schools. The Ithaca College Trombone Troupe performed for the district's brass students. "Fault Line," a male a cappella group, performed for SJHS students and then invited Syncopella to perform with them onstage that evening.
- North Colonie ensembles also performed extensively in the school and larger community. The Forts Ferry Singers with selected instrumentalists and the SJHS eighth-grade band, chorus and orchestra performed at the Colonie Center Mall in December.
- The SJHS Select Chorus performed at Our Lady of Hope and the Watervliet Elks Lodge Flag Day 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. Treble Makers (SJHS) and selected string students from Boght Hills performed at a Board of Education meeting to honor 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, tree lighting ceremonies and other civic events in the community.
- The SHS Jazz Ensemble performed for the Student Government Leadership Assembly and Jazzaret at Shaker High School. 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 Shaker High School's Homecoming Parade and Pep Rally, the Albany St. Patrick's parade and the June parade for S.W. Pitts fire department. They were again invited to perform in the "Magic Music Days" at Walt Disney World in Florida, and traveled to the event in May. Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate and the students were unable to march, though the trip overall was considered successful.

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OBJECTIVES:

- Begin the integration of the Maplewood music and art programs into the North Colonie Central School District.

Evaluation: What gains were made? What steps should be taken to further this integration?

ART/MUSIC: The art/music teacher has participated fully in district workshops and department meetings. She has been observed in the classroom, and has made arrangements to observe art and music teacher colleagues in several schools and grade levels. Regular reports and lesson plans have been collected and reviewed. Communication and mentor support have been offered and used in the acquisition of needed instructional resource materials and in instructional technology. Continued classroom observations, one-on-one meetings and budget requests relating to technology and departmental-specific equipment are planned to further the integration. Maplewood's December concert featured the debut of the Maplewood band program, including students from 4th through 6th grades performing as instrument sections and two selections as a full band. The full band performed a variety of pieces together in May and also marched in the annual Maplewood Memorial Day parade. Representation of Maplewood in district-wide art exhibits is occurring. Gradual interpretation of curriculum differences between Maplewood and other district elementary schools for the K-6 music, 5-6 chorus, 4-6 band and 1-6 art programs is continuing.

- Explore and assess the use of instructional technology in art and music, implement new and innovative strategies, and recommend any new approaches for the following year.

Evaluation: What new uses of instructional technology were assessed? What new strategies were implemented? What recommendations were made?

MUSIC: The junior high school art and music program implemented a new portable computer lab to be shared between the two departments. Plans are being made for the further implementation of the lab into the general music program. The music department spent a portion of the November workshop day sharing knowledge about GarageBand, podcasting, iTunes and other music-specific software. The staff also toured the brand new Experimental Media Performing Arts Center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and learned about the advances in acoustical engineering at the facility. Sixteen music teachers attended the Suburban Council/CASDA Conference in October, which featured a presentation by Soundtree Music Technology on podcasting and new trends in music technology.

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The March workshop day featured an afternoon of department-specific sessions focused on recording technology, website design and the incorporation of music websites into the rehearsal setting, an exploration of notation software, using podcasting, GarageBand and iTunes in elementary music classroom projects, and also building basic computer skills for some of the staff.