



April 5, 2007

TO: Art Rainwater

FROM: Julie Palkowski

RE: Elementary General Music Curriculum Team Recommendations

PURPOSE

The curriculum team explored ways to ensure that all teachers have access to the same materials and training in order to reinforce a consistently high quality K-5 General Music Program that is standards-based and includes multicultural experiences. Planning began with a review of past and current programming, literature on successful programming and practices, and contemporary student needs and interests.

CHARGE

Design a consistent elementary general music program that is standards-based and includes multicultural experiences.

ELEMENTARY GENERAL MUSIC BACKGROUND

Enrollment/Scheduling: All MMSD students in grades K-5 participate in general music for 60 minutes per week within the school year with the exception of Emerson Elementary School. Emerson Elementary School has a pilot providing 4th and 5th graders with a choice of either general music or strings class. A copy of jPI 8.01 (2) (j) (4) of the Wisconsin State Statutes, along with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction clarification is provided. (Appendix A)

Staffing:

Music instruction is provided by licensed music teachers, certified in elementary general music. There are 35 elementary general music teachers working within MMSD elementary schools. Staff FTEs range from .10 to 1.0 FTE. The total elementary general music allocation for the 2006-2007 school year is 28.0 FTE. Eleven of the thirty-one elementary schools have multiple music teachers on staff.

Curriculum/Instruction: General music staff implements the state standards and district benchmarks in grades kindergarten through five. MMSD General Music K-5 was among the earliest content areas to align their standards and benchmarks to the National Standards. The district standards and benchmarks have guided a quality curriculum in music since 1998.

Resources: Schools have a variety of equipment that is available for use in general music. Existing inventories were reviewed. The team updated the list, eliminating non-essential classroom equipment. Items not placed on the list are being considered for traveling sets for schools to share. Elementary general music staff was requested to complete a school inventory list. Returned inventory lists showed large discrepancies in what equipment was available for elementary general

music class use. The total cost of musical instruments deemed necessary by the Elementary General Music Curriculum Team for foundational elementary general music classroom use (3/06 prices) is \$16,967.62 per school. The total cost for equipment needed for purchase from the eleven schools who returned their surveys, is \$32,564.10, averaging to \$2,960.32 per school. Costs identified are not yearly expenses. These totals cover equipment that will be used over several years with hundreds of K-5 children in each of the elementary general music programs.

The grid below shows the cost for inventory suggested for elementary general music classrooms prior to 2007 and the Elementary General Music Curriculum team’s foundational elementary general music classroom inventory. The grid also indicates a per school and district savings incurred as a result of the new inventory list developed by the Elementary General Music Curriculum Team. A plan for purchasing items is provided within the recommendations.

	Inventory List Prior 2007	Inventory List from EGMCT	Savings per school	Total Savings (31 E.S. X savings per school)
Cost (3/07 prices)	\$22,534.98	\$16,967.62	\$5,567.36	\$172,588.16

Staff Development: Staff is provided with voluntary monthly staff sessions investigating music instructional strategies and methods. Basic knowledge about different cultures will be also shared. Several online resources are also available for staff to utilize and include the district website, the dww site, and the fine arts staff blog. Collaboration with local community arts groups, higher education, and professional organizations has assisted in providing staff development opportunities.

ELEMENTARY GENERAL MUSIC CURRICULUM TEAM MEMBERS

Six staff members were selected through a general music staff nomination process held in April 2006. The members included in this team were four elementary general music teachers, one high school music teacher, one middle school music teacher, two higher education music representatives, and two community arts staff members. The Coordinator of Fine Arts facilitated the meetings. The Executive Director of Teaching and Learning and the Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools also attended several meetings.

LITERATURE REVIEW/DATA COLLECTION

The team read several articles about music education strategies. A survey was distributed to general music staff for a review of programming information. Additional data/information was included on the district website for staff and participants to review. The team gathered input from general music colleagues across the district and regularly communicated progress to this group. A draft of the team recommendations were shared with the elementary general music staff. After review of staff suggestions, a final set of recommendations are provided within this document for review by the Board of Education for implementation for the 2007-2008 school year.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY GENERAL MUSIC

1. Develop the general music K-2nd Grade benchmarks for standards eight and nine.

Standard Eight- Relating music to all arts and disciplines

Standard Nine- Associating music to history and world cultures

Language for kindergarten through second grade benchmarks does not exist in standard eight to help guide general music staff. Standard nine benchmarks for kindergarten through second grade discuss only audience etiquette. The team decided to add benchmarks for the primary level which assist in further development of both standards eight and nine. (Appendix B)

Plan for implementing recommendation

March 2007- K-2nd Grade benchmarks for standards eight and nine were crafted by the Elementary General Music Curriculum Team.

April 2007- Elementary general music staff provided draft and asked to share ideas.

June 2007- Final benchmarks presented to the BOE to approve and include with the Standards and Benchmarks for K-2nd grade general music.

2. Develop continuity among all schools for elementary general music standards eight and nine.

Available music resources differ in each school. The revision of the inventory list and creation of traveling resources will assist in providing access to musical instruments and resources for all schools. The traveling sets provide student access to unique musical resources, as well as lessening the burden on schools to fund these types of materials. A grant to purchase materials has been applied for. School administration is encouraged to provide an adequate budget for items on the inventory list. The fine arts department will use district funds to purchase traveling materials and some foundational list items. (Appendix C)

Plan for implementing recommendation

December 2006- Elementary General Music staff share thoughts about the EGMCT progress.

January 2007- Elementary General Music staff was encouraged to visit EGMCT website page and provide ideas.

February 2007- Coordinator of Fine Arts applied for a grant to assist in funding initial purchase of multicultural equipment, staff research time for material authentication, and outreach/fieldtrip costs.

June 2007- If a grant is awarded, a few music and visual arts staff members will research, coordinate, and prepare cultural arts tubs for school use.

3. Provide staff development to explore elementary general music standards eight and nine through relevant multi-cultural experiences.

Staff sessions will be planned each month to share instructional strategies and methods that enhance student music development. Collaboration with local community arts groups, higher education, and professional organizations will continue to assist in providing staff development opportunities. Additional continuity of the program is gained through the building of common staff in-services exploring the standards and instructional strategies to enhance musical practice.

Plan for implementing recommendation

September 2006- Present- Elementary General Music staff has been invited to take part in staff sessions each month, many of these relating to standards eight and nine.

February 2007- Coordinator of Fine Arts applied for grant to assist with extended employment for staff helping coordinate, research, and prepare cultural arts materials for school use.

April 2007- Coordinator of Fine Arts will provide proposed elementary fine arts staff session dates to district administration for approval. This will then be forwarded to school principals to secure for fine arts use.

April- August 2007- Coordinator of Fine Arts will investigate staff sessions focusing on standards eight and nine and solicit feedback from staff on in-service ideas.

4. Explore multi-cultural community resources to enhance opportunities for all children.

Staff will be informed of community events, resources, and projects which help schools explore world art forms throughout the year.

Plan for implementing recommendation-

February 2007- Coordinator of Fine Arts applied for a grant to assist in funding multi-cultural outreach/fieldtrip costs.

April-August 2007- Coordinator of Fine Arts will investigate additional cultural arts opportunities.

April 2007-May 2008- Fine Arts staff will be provided with updates on cultural arts events/outreach/fieldtrip opportunities.

Other Considerations

- Each elementary school should have adequate space dedicated for music instruction.
- Class sizes need to be commensurate with regular classrooms.
- Music classes need a room that is conducive to listening activities without interfering sounds.