

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

June 5, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: Staffing for Countywide Music Programs (04-29-19-02)

Question

During Public Comments, Dr. Smith directed staff to submit a response to the Board members' queries regarding countywide music programs regarding how they are being staffed, and how to best serve music students countywide.

Response

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) supports student interests by providing a wide array of course offerings that match students' individual needs and interests. The courses that are offered ultimately rely on staffing allocations as determined by enrollment. Schools are allocated positions based on a staffing formula. Allocations do not identify specific content allotments such as a music teacher. When constructing the master schedule for a school, the principal considers enrollment, community interest, and school criteria to develop instructional programs and assign Full-time Equivalent (FTE) positions to match student interests, requirements, and needs. As schools continue in the scheduling process, school administration communicates with school staff about how staffing and scheduling may impact course offerings.

Our commitment is to have strong music programs in every school, regardless of program size or staffing allocations. As the scheduling process continues, any changes in staff may impact course offerings; however, the expectation for high standards and academic rigor will continue. Central services music staff supports schools and music teachers with mentoring and guidance to ensure school programs are robust and strong.

Factors that influence fine arts scheduling include the following:

- The nature of curriculum for performing arts classes allows for a variety of class sizes and vary from school to school.
- The same nature of curriculum may allow for smaller programs or large programs regardless of the size of the school population. Some schools with smaller enrollment may offer three separate instrumental or vocal ensembles, while another school with larger enrollment may only offer one of each ensemble.

- Facility specifications may impact course offerings.
- When developing the master school schedule, principals need to consider all singleton courses. In addition to fine arts courses, this also may include Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and other courses. If these courses are offered opposite the fine arts course, this may contribute to a decrease in enrollment in the arts courses.
- Student populations with high mobility may impact enrollment in arts courses, including other priorities such as world languages or career and technology education programs.

Three-year trend data for high school music enrollment and teachers for 2017–2019 are attached. The data include enrollment for performing ensembles (Band, Chorus, and Orchestra) and general music (Piano, Guitar, Music Theory, Music Technology, and Music Perspectives). Additional data will need to be gathered to specifically analyze FTE allocations in increments of 0.2 FTE.

MCPS is committed to serving our students and schools equitably in course offerings and performance opportunities. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Maria V. Navarro, chief academic officer, at 240-740-3040.

JRS:MVN:NTH:bts

Attachment

Copy to:

Dr. Navarro
Ms. Diamond
Mrs. Hazel
Mr. Murphy
Dr. Rumpf
Ms. Webb

MCPS HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC & CHORUS ENROLLMENT

SCHOOL	2017	2018	2019	3-year Difference	Δ Teachers 2017-2019*
Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS	845	886	852	7	1
Montgomery Blair HS	1010	872	982	-28	0
James Hubert Blake HS	766	873	792	26	0
Winston Churchill HS	979	988	1021	42	0
Clarksburg HS	850	715	780	-70	1
Damascus HS	435	472	457	22	0
Albert Einstein HS	576	579	619	43	-1
Gaithersburg HS	596	676	624	28	0
Walter Johnson HS	1059	1130	1208	149	1
John F. Kennedy HS	343	305	315	-28	0
Col. Zadok Magruder HS	542	544	445	-97	0
Richard Montgomery HS	842	902	810	-32	0
Northwest HS	592	853	861	269	2
Northwood HS	420	503	548	128	0
Paint Brand HS	490	458	491	1	0
Poolesville HS	257	277	300	43	0
Quince Orchard HS	837	688	629	-208	-1
Rockville HS	430	380	394	-36	0
Seneca Valley HS	526	467	384	-142	0
Sherwood HS	988	939	918	-70	0
Springbrook HS	470	434	344	-126	0
Watkins Mill HS	499	435	393	-106	0
Wheaton HS	380	348	411	31	0
Walt Whitman HS	1056	1012	886	-170	0
Thomas S. Wootton HS	729	746	725	-4	0
COUNTY TOTALS	16517	16482	16189	-328	0

*Unofficial teacher counts based on course enrollment, sections, and teacher assignments. The changes in teachers reflect course assignments and teachers in the school and not necessarily FTE allocations. This has not been reconciled with official records from the Office of Human Resources and Development.