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## Orchestra proposition

1 message

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To: hschantzen@bluffviewmontessori.org

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Proposition: Merge orchestra students into concert band program.

Rationale: There are currently five orchestra students not including students who are beginners and might move into orchestra. This is not a functional number to hold an ensemble. Numbers in instrumental music (combined string, wind, and percussion) have remained steady. The students have not been regularly choosing strings or doubling strings and another instrument. I would feel better at 12-15 students.

Why this: Learning string instruments is an important option in musical education. By merging the two programs, students can still choose what they desire. If student numbers in strings increases in the future this also allows the ability to separate orchestra.

How this would work: Students can choose a couple different options. 1) They can take beginning lessons on a string instrument and not play in an ensemble. This is what has been done with beginning strings. If they do this, it will not count as an ensemble class in erdkinder. 2) They can join band or beginning band. They will still be working on the same skills of rhythm, dynamics, blending, and listening from orchestra.

What this requires of me: Band music will have to be rewritten for string parts. Flute parts rewritten for violin. Clarinet transposed for viola, etc. Student books will have to be adapted for strings in band. I would plan to get this done over the summer (the sooner I know to start, the better). Reallocate the Friday orchestra time as alternating between concert and beginning band. This would increase their rehearsal time to 1.5 times a week. Most middle school groups meet 2-3 times a week.

This is being done to make sure all students have a meaningful musical experience. We can still allow students to learn strings and be prepared for future orchestra. Finally, this is a change that can be undone if future orchestra interest grows.

I am more than happy to answer further questions and explore this idea. Feel free email me pressing questions. I also hope to attend July's meeting in person.

Chris Dubis