
**Fairbanks
Music Advocacy
Committee**

**Annual Report
2017-2018**

Fairbanks Music Advocacy Committee

Annual Report

2017-2018

Cover Letter

Date: May 1, 2018

To: Fairbanks North Star Borough School Board Members

CC: Dr. Karen Gaborik, FNSBSD Music Teachers

From: Fairbanks Music Advocacy Committee

Subject: Fairbanks North Star Borough School District Annual Report of Music Education

Thank you for taking the time to review our annual report on K-12 Music Education in the FNSBSD. This is our third year compiling the annual report, researched and written by the Fairbanks Music Advocacy Committee (MAC), a community-based advocacy group that has worked with music teachers in our district to provide the information for the report. The purpose of this report is to provide continuing information regarding the state of music education in the Fairbanks Northstar Borough School District.

The committee is open to anyone who believes music is an essential part of our quality of life. Musicians, community members, teachers, administrators, parents, and anyone who is passionate about equal access to music education for all kids are welcome. The current goal is to publicize our existence and educate our members on our principles and mission. We'll know that we've established ourselves as a credible, well-informed, student-focused organization when decision makers come to us to determine the impacts of their decisions before making any changes affecting music education.

We are available to answer any questions, address concerns, or hear comments from you regarding either the content of this report or the Music Advocacy Committee.

Sincerely,

Fairbanks Music Advocacy Committee

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Fairbanks Music Advocacy Committee

2017-2018 Annual Report

Purpose: The purpose of this annual report is to keep administration and school board members informed about the activities and importance of its music programs.

Fairbanks Music Advocacy Committee: An advocacy group made of parents, community members, and music educators who are focused on encouraging the growth of K-12 music education programs for all students in the FNSBSD. It is not a fundraising organization, but it will work with parent or booster groups in support of school music programs.

Committee Mission Statement: Music is a universal language and an essential quality of being human. Each student deserves the opportunity to experience, participate in, and perform music. Through music in our schools we empower our students to develop 21st century skills in order to become productive members of a diverse and changing society. It is our mission to advance a consistent and thriving music program in every school. Music education promotes critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, creativity, initiative, self-direction, leadership, and responsibility.

Principles: Our committee is built on the following principles:

- Our committee is student-centered – we are focused on the impact of any decision on students.
- Our committee’s focus is on music education as a unified, district-wide-effort – it is not focused on individual schools, special programs, or music directors.
- Our committee is a community-based organization committed to creating long-term positive relationship with key decision makers affecting music education.
- Goals: The primary goal of our coalition is to support music in the curriculum and to promote access to music in the curriculum for all students.

Additional goals include:

- To promote a balanced curriculum that treats music as an equal – not in competition with other subjects.
- To recognize and share information about the positive contributions of our school music programs to our children, our schools, and our community.
- To inform school board members and school administration on district-wide issues related to music.
- To have an ongoing, long-term focus on music in the curriculum.
- To present an annual report to the Fairbanks North Star Borough School Board.

Membership: Anyone who has a passion for music and believes all students should have access to music education.

Focus of Report:

- The focus of this report will be to provide a summary of how many students are involved in music across our district, at which schools, and who is providing instruction.
- A summary of performance highlights and “Good Things” happening in our district.
- Recommendations for improvement.

Plans Forward:

- The annual report will be presented at the end of each school year- growing in scope over time.
- Continue to work with district music educators to develop short and long-term plans for K-12 Music Education.

Resources:

John L. Benham, Music Advocacy (Rowman and Littlefield, 2011)

Alaska Music Educators Association: www.alaskamea.ning.com

Alaska School Activities Association: <http://asaa.org/activities/music/>

Alaska State Council on the Arts: <https://education.alaska.gov/aksca/>

Alaska State Education Standards: <https://education.alaska.gov/akstandards/standards/>

Washington Music Educators Association: www.wmea.org

National Association for Music Education: www.nafme.org

Music Teacher Directory

Below is a table of contact information for every music teacher in the FNSBSD.

Elementary Schools

School	Teacher	Phone	Email
Anderson	Nichole Lawrence	907-372-2167	nichole.lawrence@k12northstar.org
Anne Wien	Meta Bravos	907-451-7500	meta.bravos@k12northstar.org
Arctic Light	Frances Lupton	907-356-2038	frances.lupton@k12northstar.org
Crawford	Nichole Lawrence	907-372-3306	nichole.lawrence@k12northstar.org
Denali	Connie Oba	907-452-2456	connie.oba@k12northstar.org
Hunter	Taylor Lee	907-457-5775	taylor.lee@k12northstar.org
Joy	Doug Lange	907-456-5469	doug.lange@k12northstar.org
Ladd	Kristina Mulready	907-451-1700	kristina.mulready@k12northstar.org
Midnight Sun	Barbara Quaile	907-488-0134	barbara.quaile@k12northstar.org
Nordale	Eileen Gillette	907-452-2696	eileen.gillette@k12northstar.org
North Pole	Raleigh Bartholomew	907-488-2286	raleigh.bartholomew@k12northstar.org
Pearl Creek	Kristi McEwen	907-479-4234	kristi.mcewen@k12northstar.org
Salcha	Courtney Miklos	907-479-3267	courtney.miklos@k12Northstar.org
Ticasuk Brown	Melanie Bieniek	907-488-3200	melanie.bieniek@k12northstar.org
Two Rivers (K-8)	Trevor Adams	907-488-6616	trevor.adams@k12northstar.org
University Park	Bridget Machida	907-479-6963	bridget.machida@k12northstar.org

Weller	Nathan Arnold	907-457-1629	nathan.arnold@k12northstar.org
Woodriver	Lucile Hackett	907-479-4211	lucile.hackett@k12northstar.org

Middle School

School	Teacher	Phone	Email
Ben Eielson	Jose Lopez-Ramos	907-372-3110	jose.lopez-ramos@k12northstar.org
North Pole	Katrina Nore (Choir/Orchestra)	907-488-2271	katrina.nore@k12northstar.org
North Pole	Todd Wienke (Band/Guitar)	907-488-2271	todd.wienke@k12northstar.org
Randy Smith	Robert "Bobb" Lockwood	907-458-7600	robert.lockwood@k12northstar.org
Ryan	Campbell Longworth	907-452-4751	campbell.longworth@k12northstar.org
Tanana	Simon Traynor	907-452-8145	simon.traynor@k12northstar.org

High School

School	Teacher	Phone	Email
Ben Eielson	Jose Lopez-Ramos	907-372-3110	jose.lopez-ramos@k12northstar.org
Lathrop	Carolyn Soderlund (choir/guitar)	907-456-7794	carolyn.soderlund@k12northstar.org
Lathrop	Tristan Hovest (band/orchestra)	907-456-7794	tristan.hovest@k12northstar.org
North Pole	Bruce Hanson (choir)	907-488-3761	bruce.hanson@k12northstar.org
North Pole	Gwendolyn Brazier	907-488-3761	gwendolyn.brazier@k12northstar.org

West Valley	Lucas Clouten (band/guitar/steel pan)	907-479-4221	lucas.clouten@k12northstar.org
West Valley	Trevor Adams (orchestra)	907-479-4221	trevor.adams@k12northstar.org

Districtwide

Teacher	Schools	Subject	Email
Trevor Adam	Two Rivers West Valley	Band/Orchestra General Music Orchestra	trevor.adams@k12northstar.org
Katie Bates	North Pole Elementary, Midnight Sun, & Ticasuk Brown	Orchestra	katie.bates@k12northstar.org
Gwendolyn Brazier	Barnette North Pole High	General Music Band/Orchestra	gwendolyn.brazier@k12northstar.org
James Castleberry	Arctic Light, Joy & Ladd	Band	james.castleberry@k12northstar.org
Sunnifa Deehr	Arctic Light, Joy & Ladd	Orchestra	sunnifa.deehr@k12northstar.org
Eileen Gillette	Nordale	General Music Orchestra	eileen.gillette@k12northstar.org
Anne Kettle	Weller & Pearl Creek	Orchestra	anne.kettle@k12northstar.org
Taylor Lee	Hunter	General Music Orchestra	taylor.lee@k12northstar.org
Kendi Lesley	Woodriver, U-Park & Anne Wien	Band	kendi.lesley@k12northstar.org
Jose Lopez-Ramos	Crawford Ben Eielson	Band/Orchestra Band/Choir/Orch	jose.lopez-ramos@k12northstar.org
Allison Mogenson	Pearl Creek, Nordale & Weller	Band	allison.mogenson@k12northstar.org
Connie Oba	Denali	General Music Orchestra	connie.oba@k12northstar.org
Sue Waltman	Woodriver, U-Park & Anne Wien	Orchestra	sue.waltman@k12northstar.org

Liesl Wietgreffe	Midnight Sun, Ticasuk Brown, & North Pole Elem.,	Band	liesl.wietgreffe@k12northstar.org
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Non-Traditional

School	Teacher	Phone	Email
Barnette	Gwendolyn Brazier (Gen Music) Thomas Ramos (Band/Orch)	(907) 456-6072	gwendolyn.brazier@k12northstar.org g thomas.ramos@k12northstar.org
Chinook	n/a	(907) 452-5020	n/a
Effie	n/a	(907) 474-0958	n/a
Watershed	n/a	(907) 374- 9350	n/a

Teacher's Biographies

Elementary School Teachers

Trevor Adams teaches general music at **Two Rivers Elementary School** and orchestra at West Valley High School. He is a composer, violist, and music educator with a Bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. During his time at UAF he has played with The Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra, The Arctic Chamber Orchestra, The Northern Lights String Orchestra, Opera Fairbanks, and Fairbanks Light Opera Theater. He has been an intern for the UAF String Fling, was the former coach of the North Star Strings, and taught the Fairbanks Youth String Orchestra during the 2015 - 2016 season. He is a current member of the newly formed Nanook String Quartet. In February 2015, he put on a recital of his own compositions in which he conducted and performed, and in May 2015, his original score for The Muse was premiered at the University of Alaska's "Thaw Out Film Festival". Trevor has attended the 2013 American String Teachers Association National Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, the 2012 and 2014 Alaska Music Educators Association Conferences, and attended the 2014 Fairbanks Suzuki Institute while taking the Violin/Viola Book 1 training course. In both the 2011- 2012 and 2014-2015 academic years, Trevor received the Outstanding Music Major Award from the College of Liberal Arts for his hard work and dedication to the program. Currently, he is working on a bachelor of arts in music composition and a film studies minor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Nathan Arnold teaches general music, choir and guitar at **Weller Elementary**. Nathan Arnold was born and raised in Alaska. After graduating from Lathrop High School in 1995 he began studying classical guitar while working at the University of Alaska. In 2004 he left Fairbanks to study music education at the University of Idaho. Upon returning to Fairbanks in 2009 he accepted a position with the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. He taught at Barnette Magnet School for three years before moving to North Pole, where he currently teaches general music and choir. Mr. Arnold is a guitarist who has performed in a wide variety of styles and venues. From popular styles to classical and jazz, he has been an active participant in making and music where he lives. He teaches guitar at the annual UAF Summer Music Academy and also maintains an active private studio of students in the Fairbanks area, instructing a wide variety of students and styles.

In addition to general music, choir and current trends in music education, his classes offer students the opportunity to study the guitar and ukulele. His guitar students have performed with Orff Ensembles as well as Orchestras. Nathan is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the Alaska Music Educators Association.

Katie Bates teaches orchestra at **Midnight Sun, Ticasuk-Brown, and North Pole Elementary Schools**. Katie began playing piano in the fourth grade and added violin between sixth and seventh grade. Violin was her primary instrument at St. Cloud State University. She has a B.S. in comprehensive Music Education from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota and a Master's in Education from Cambridge College in Massachusetts. Katie has taught for almost forty-four years (next spring it will be almost forty-five years), although it has not all been in the public schools. She has taught orchestra/strings, guitar, piano, general music, and she has taught some of the band instruments as well. Over the years, she has participated in community orchestras, pit orchestras, played in churches, and currently plays viola in the Northern Lights String Orchestra at the University

of Alaska Fairbanks. Katie composes music for her students to play at their concerts. One of her sons is working on a DMA in Music Theory and Composition. Two of her former students are now teaching orchestral strings in this school district. She is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the Alaska Music Educators Association.

Raleigh Bartholomew is a general music teacher at **North Pole Elementary**, a University of Alaska Fairbanks Graduate, and was born and raised in Alaska. This is Raleigh's third year as a music teacher, but is finishing his first year as a teacher in Fairbanks since his student teaching. Since becoming a teacher, Raleigh has volunteered as a High School Volleyball coach, North Pole Elementary Running Club Coach, has volunteered with Lathrop's Drama and Band department, and has helped with Music in Our Schools month band and orchestra performances at North Pole High School. Raleigh has also been involved with Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre, Opera Fairbanks, and Choir of the North since beginning his teaching career. Mr. Bartholomew values the power of using instrumental, choral music, and dance in order to teach elementary music effectively and believes that every child deserves the right to learn music in school.

Melanie Bieniek teaches general music and choir at **Ticasuk Brown Elementary School**. Melanie is a product of the FNSBSD! She has always loved music and because of that she began her musical career in 4th grade band at Weller Elementary. She played the baritone (and the later the euphonium) throughout her public school experience. After she graduated from high school she attended the Conservatory of Music at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA. There she earned a Bachelor's of Music in Music Education. After graduation, she began her teaching career in the Linden Unified School District. It was there that she received the New Teacher of the Year award. During her tenure in California she played with the Valley Concert Band, a professional concert band in the San Joaquin Valley. After her fourth year with the Linden School District, she returned to Fairbanks in 2005. Since then, she has been teaching General Music and choir at Ticasuk Brown Elementary School.

She completed her Master's Degree in Curriculum (Arts Integration) through Lesley University in 2013. She currently plays in the Fairbanks Community Band and the University Wind Symphony. Melanie is a member of the National Association for Music Education and is a board member of the Alaska Music Educators Association. *Awards Received:* New Teacher of the Year, BP Teacher of Excellence, AMEA Music Advocate of the Year.

Meta Bravos teaches general music at **Anne Wien School**. Meta was born in Chicago, Illinois. She began playing violin in 4th grade, and later switched to piano. Through her junior and senior years attending Sullivan High School, she was totally committed to participating in her choir program. After graduating from Sullivan, she attended Harper Junior College, and later, Adams State College, Colorado, graduating in 1976, earning her BMUS in organ performance, and an inspiration to study further in sacred music. Once home again in Chicago, she started the children's choir at her home church, St. Andrews, and later went back to school, DePaul University, to earn her teaching certification in music, completing her studies in 1982. Ms. Bravos moved to Alaska in October, 1982, and began her teaching career in Kake, Alaska in 1983. Since then, she has had the pleasure to have taught and lived in the communities of Anchorage, Bethel, Nome, Willow and Fairbanks, as well as a year back in Illinois, with the North Boone Community School District 200, Poplar Grove, Illinois. In Fairbanks, Ms.

Bravos sang with the Alaska Chamber Chorale for several years, while also participating on the Boards of Directors of Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre for three years, and Opera Fairbanks for nine years.

Gwendolyn P. Brazier teaches general music at **Barnette Magnet School** as well as band and orchestra at **North Pole High School**. Gwendolyn began teaching for the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District in 2009, at Salcha Elementary School. Over the last several years she has added a Kindergarten violin program to each of her school's and a musical theater class at Barnette Magnet. She was the after school advisor for the West Valley High School Thespian Drama Troupe #628 since 2011. She has stage or music directed for North Pole, Lathrop and West Valley High Schools. Her talents do not end in the classroom. Ms. Brazier is an avid Fairbanks arts community supporter and performer. She has performed as a bassist in the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra, Northern Light String Orchestra and North Star Strings. She regularly performs with the Fairbanks Community Band and has been a featured guest soloist vocalist and regular choral member of Choir of the North, Alaska Camerata and directed the Madrigal Singers, FLOT Showcase and Rainbow Choir. She has directed and performed in numerous stage productions throughout the Fairbanks theater community, to include Fairbanks Drama Association, Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre, Fairbanks Shakespeare Theatre, UAF Theater and Film, Fairbanks Opera as well as the University of Alaska Student Drama Association. Currently, she is a founding member and board president for The Interior Independent Theatre and performs with a popular 70's funk band. Gwendolyn is a member of the National Association of Music Educators, American Choral Directors Association, American Band Directors Association and the Alaska chapter of the American Band Directors Association, Alaska Music Educators Association. She is the current treasurer for the Alaska Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association.

James Castleberry currently teaches band at **Arctic Light, Ladd, and Joy Elementary Schools**. James Castleberry was born in Jacksonville, FL. He spent his grade school years in Missoula, MT before moving back to Florida at the beginning of his seventh grade year. James discovered clarinet in 5th grade, adding saxophones in ninth grade and percussion in eleventh grade. During his senior year of high school he auditioned for the U.S. Army Band and was accepted. He enlisted in October of 1988 and spent the next twenty-one years performing for Soldiers and Civilians in fourteen different countries. James has performed with many American artists such as Blake Shelton, Wayne Newton, Chris Isaac, and Aaron Tippin, as well as local artists in America, Asia, and Europe. During his twenty-one years of service James completed his Bachelor's degree in History through University of Maryland and, following his retirement in 2009, he completed his teaching certification from the University of Alaska. James was immediately hired to teach band and orchestra at Crawford and Salcha elementary schools and taught in the Fairbanks school district for the next three years. After completing his Master's degree in Instructional Technology in 2013, James moved with his family to Bandon, Oregon where he taught Social Studies and Band at Coquille Jr-Sr High for two years before returning to Fairbanks in 2015. He currently teaches band at Woodriver Elementary and both band and orchestra at Crawford and Salcha Elementary schools. James enjoys performing occasionally with members of the Army Band, Alaska Blaskapelle, and other local musicians.

Eileen Gillette teaches general music and orchestra at **Nordale Elementary School**. Eileen was born in Ft. Benning, Georgia and grew up as an Army brat. She began to play the flute in 6th grade and became involved in band and choir at Lathrop High School when her family moved to Fairbanks, Alaska. After high school, Eileen began her Music Education degree at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and completed it at Kansas University

in 2007. After moving back to Alaska, she began working for the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District as an elementary band and orchestra teacher. Currently in her 11th year of teaching, she switched gears this year and is teaching general music and orchestra at her school. Over the years she has enjoyed playing in the Fairbanks Community Band, Fairbanks Flutists, the Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre pit orchestra, and singing in the Aurora Women's Chorale. She is currently working on her Masters in Education with a concentration in Curriculum and Instruction. She is married with a lovely daughter, Kiaya, and two dogs.

Lucile Hackett teaches general music and choir at **Woodriver Elementary**. Lucile hails from Grand Rapids, Michigan. She played oboe and piano in high school and majored in voice at Indiana University, where she earned her BME with a teaching minor in English in 1991. After teaching one year of high school choir and English in Michigan, she moved to Fairbanks, where she has taught General Elementary Music for the past 25 years, including Hunter, Arctic Light, Two Rivers, and currently Woodriver Elementary. In 1996 she earned her M.A. in American Literature from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Ms. Hackett is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the Alaska Music Educators Association. She has served on both Alaska Music Educators Association and Orff Chapter boards, and has performed with Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre, Fairbanks Opera, and Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival. She is the choral director at University Community Presbyterian Church, and is married with three children.

Anne Kettle teaches orchestra **Pearl Creek** and **Weller Elementary Schools**. Ms. Kettle is a mezzo-soprano from Potomac, Montana. She earned her Bachelor degree in music education from the University of Montana in 2004. Ms. Kettle has been teaching since has taught in northern India, Anchorage and is now in her 5th year with the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. Currently, she teaches elementary orchestra at Pearl Creek and Weller Elementary schools. She has had the opportunity to teach general music, beginning band, middle and high school choir and is enjoying the switch to orchestra. She holds Kodaly level I certification and will finish her Masters of Education in School Counseling in fall 2018. Ms. Kettle enjoys performing with Opera Fairbanks when her schedule allows.

Doug Lange teaches general music at **Joy Elementary School**. Doug Lange is a music educator with more than 26 years of experience teaching students from pre-K through 12th grade in Oregon and Alaska, including Unalaska, Nome and Fairbanks. Mr. Lange studied at the University of Montana and Warner Pacific University and holds a masters from Pepperdine University. Being a saxophonist, Mr. Lange has played in jazz groups since the age of 13 and was a founding member of the Fairbanks Community Jazz Band as well as one of its directors. Mr. Lange also frequently sings in the chorus of Opera Fairbanks productions with his wife and 6 children. Being an advocate for lifelong arts education, Mr. Lange serves on the board of the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival.

Kristina Mulready teaches general music at Ladd Elementary School. Kristina was born and raised in Juneau, Alaska. She started singing in preschool and took up piano and trumpet in 5th grade. After graduation from Juneau-Douglas High School in 1988, she attended the University of Alaska-Fairbanks and earned a B.M. in music education in 1993. Ms. Mulready received her first teaching position in February of 1996 in Glennallen, Ak (1 semester only). Since then, she has also taught in Tok-3 years, Haines-3 years, and Fairbanks-14th year, where she teaches today. As an elementary band specialist, her job took her all over the Fairbanks School District teaching at many different schools. Today she teaches general music at Ladd Elementary and is a

member of the National Association for Music Education and is a board member of the Alaska Music Educators Association.

Nichole Lawrence teaches general music at **Anderson Elementary School** and **Crawford Elementary**. Nichole was born in the middle of Michigan and was raised in a small town called Columbiaville. She spent all of her high school career taking voice lessons, performing with choirs, and spending summers at Interlochen Arts Camp. After high school Nichole decided to major in Music Education with a vocal focus at Western Michigan University. While at Western she started and ran an all female A Capella group named Mane Attraction. After college she spent a year teaching music at Coloma Elementary/Intermediate school. After a year teaching in Michigan she decided to accept a job teaching music at Crawford and Anderson Elementary on Eielson Air Force Base. Though new to the community she has already become a member of a local choir and a member of Fairbanks Symphony Chorus.

Taylor Lee teaches general music and orchestra at **Hunter Elementary**. She was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska. She began playing the violin in 5th grade with the Woodriver Elementary Orchestra under Sheryl Frey and added vocal studies and piano a few years later. After graduating from West Valley High School in 2008, she attended Northwest University in Kirkland, WA where she earned her Bachelor of Music Education in 2012. From there she moved to Xi'an, China where she taught k-12 general music, choir and orchestra at Xi'an International School for nearly five years. Miss Lee returned to Fairbanks in 2017 and teaches general music and orchestra at her school. She continues to study voice and violin privately with UAF professors Dr. Janelle Celaire and Dr. Bryan Hall. Miss Lee was recently selected to sing as a 2018 Opera Fairbanks apprentice. As a "Suzuki parent" she actively works with her 5th grade brother who is studying the cello in private lessons, Suzuki, Fairbanks Youth Orchestra's String Orchestra, school orchestra, and Music in our Schools Honor Orchestra.

Kendi Lesley teaches band at **University Park, Woodriver, and Anne Wien Elementary Schools**. Kendi is from Idaho. She graduated from the University of Idaho after completing a BMUS degree in Music Education: instrumental/vocal. Go Vandals! She moved to Alaska the next year thinking she would teach in Alaska, have an adventure for a couple years and move back to the northwest lower 48. Well, ten years later, she's still here. Miss Lesley, in addition to her band duties, she teaches an after school jazz band at both UPark and Woodriver. As for her own musical pursuits, Ms. Lesley enjoys collaborating with fellow music teachers and friends on various projects. She is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the Alaska Music Educators Association.

Mr. José L. López-Ramos band and orchestra at **Crawford Elementary** as well as band, orchestra and choir at **Eielson Jr./Sr. High School**. He comes to us from Puerto Rico and is fluent in English and Spanish. He graduates from University of Puerto Rico in 2003 with a Degree in Music Education. From 2000-2006 was Low Brass Instructor of the Bayamón Municipal Band Program and member of Bayamón Philharmonic. During this time, he also played Caribbean Popular Music as a freelancer player. From 2003-2006 Mr. López teach at Jesús Sanchez Erazo Middle School as a Full-Time teacher. From 2003-2005 he works for the Puerto Rico Corporation for the Musical Arts as Low Brass Instructor in the low-income housing projects. In 2006 Mr. López following his grandfather and father footsteps, decided to serve in the United States Army in his best capacity as an Army Bandsman. In 2011 the Army assigned then SGT López as a trombonist to the 9th Army Band in Fort Wainwright,

Alaska. He and his wife Jacky enjoy living in Alaska so much that decided to stay in this beautiful land. After 11.5 years of service, he finishes his time in the Army and decided to serve Fairbanks community as a Music Teacher. He started working for Fairbanks School District in November of 2017. Mr. López is also the Low Brass instructor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks since 2015 and the Director of the Fairbanks Community Jazz Band. He has 2 boys that are also music students in the Music Programs at Eielson. He enjoys planting and gardening during the summer as well as travel in RV.

Francis Lupton teaches general music at **Arctic Light Elementary School** and has been an active member of the Fairbanks music education and performing arts community for over 30 years. She received her music education k-12 degree at University of Alaska Fairbanks and has taught music for the FNSBSD for over 26 years. Currently teaching at Arctic Light Elementary School Ft. Wainwright, she is also the choir director for the First United Methodist Church, a position she has held for over 25 years.

She has had the privilege of being state president for the American Choral Directors Association and has enjoyed being involved with Fairbanks Light Opera Theater in many ways, from being on the board of directors, to performing chorus and leading roles, to serving as vocal and orchestra director. Francis has taught voice and guitar to all ages. She has taught at Title One schools for many years and has had the pleasure of teaching music to ALL students, including many children as well as adults with “extra special qualities” and learning needs. She feels music is a universal equalizer for all types of learners and a perfect way to expand each and every person’s aesthetic enjoyment!

It was a privilege and an honor for her to be a presenter at Fairbanks’ “Arts are Exceptional” Institute this last summer. That summer’s focus was on teaching SPED teachers how to integrate the arts in the classroom.

Bridget Machida teaches general music at **University Park Elementary**. Bridget Machida was born and raised in western PA. She graduated from Grove City College, Grove City, PA with a bachelors of music education. Her major instrument in college was violin, but she also plays saxophone and piano. About 10 years ago she learned to play the steel drum and was involved with Cold Steel. She took a break from steel drum performing to be with her boys when they were in high school to help be involved all their rehearsals and performances. In 2014 she received her master’s degree. The study was in integrating the arts into the general classroom. It was a lot of fun and a great learning experience. She likes having her students draw pictures to music, or build music notes out of pipe cleaners, or even create a song out of found sounds.

She has taught in the Fairbanks school system for 30ish years. She says “ish” because she took a year off when her oldest was a baby, then another year off when the boys hit high school. There were also a few years of part time employment. She has taught band, orchestra, and general music in 10 schools and has been teaching general music at University Park Elementary for the past 12 years.

Kristi McEwen teaches general music at **Pearl Creek Elementary School**. Kristi teaches general music, pre-k through sixth grade, at Pearl Creek Elementary School in Fairbanks, Alaska. She has been teaching music at the elementary and middle school levels in the FNSB School District since 1999. Kristi is Level I and Level II Orff-Schulwerk certified and is a member of the Alaska Orff Chapter and the American Orff-Schulwerk Association. She received her Master’s in Education Curriculum and Instruction, Integrated Teaching Through the Arts from Lesley University, and her Bachelor’s in Music Education from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Born and raised in Alaska, Kristi enjoys sharing her Alaska Native heritage with her students through Alaska Native music, dance, and storytelling. She loves spending time outdoors with her husband, Malcolm, and beautiful son, Luke.

Courtney Miklos teaches general music, physical education and math at **Salcha Elementary School**. Courtney was born and raised in Norfolk, VA. She began playing saxophone in 6th grade and added oboe in high school. After graduating from Maury High School in 1997, she attended Brevard College in North Carolina where she earned her BA in Music in 2001. From there she moved to University of Alaska Fairbanks, in 2002, and earned her Masters degree in music composition in 2005 and her BM in Education in 2006. Ms. Miklos worked as a substitute teacher in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District until taking the Music/PE teacher position at Salcha Elementary in 2014. Ms. Miklos is an active performer in the Fairbanks Community. She plays in the Community Band, Community Jazz Band, and Opera Fairbanks.

Allison Mogenson teaches at **Nordale, Weller, and Pearl Creek Elementary Schools**. Allison was born and raised in Chugiak, Alaska. She started playing the trumpet in 6th grade. After graduating from Chugiak High school in 2002 she went on to attend the University of Alaska Fairbanks where she studied under Dr. Karen Gustafson and Rachel Eply and graduated with a Bachelors of Music; Music education k-12, and a Bachelors of Arts in music, she also earned many credits in French and Advanced wilderness leadership. In 2009 she began working for the fnsb school district where she teaches elementary band at Weller, Denali and Pearl creek elementary schools. Each spring she is invited to teach survival and Alaskan skills at Twin bears camp to 5th and 6th graders. Before working for the FNSBSD Allison worked and taught at the UAF summer music academy for 7 years. She currently plays with the UAF wind symphony and recently (summer 2016) traveled to the international trumpet guild where she performed with a trumpet ensemble under the direction of Dr. Karen Gustafson of Red Deer college in Alberta Canada. Allison is a professional musician and has performed in Italy, Canada, Washington state, Washington D.C, Maine, Virginia, California, and all over Alaska. Each spring Allison has put together the “Elementary invasion” where elementary musicians from around the district get to spend a day at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and participate in group lessons, listen to a performance by the University of Alaska Fairbanks ensembles, and they even get to sit in with the UAF students and play in the ensemble with them.

Connie Oba teaches general music, choir and orchestra at **Denali Elementary School**. Connie was born and raised in Montana. Her first instrument was the piano, followed by the flute in the school band. It was her high school music teacher who inspired her to pursue singing. She received her B.A. in education from the University of Montana, then toured the western United States as a director/actor for the Missoula Children’s Theater. It was during this adventure when she realized she had a knack and a love for teaching music to kids. After moving to Fairbanks in 1990 with her husband, she received her Master of Arts Degree in music (vocal performance). She has taught elementary general music, high school choir, and now resides at Denali Elementary where she teaches K-6 general music. This is her 14th year of full time teaching. Connie has performed with Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre, Fairbanks Drama Association, Fairbanks Shakespeare Theater, University of Alaska vocal ensembles, and adjudicates at regional and state music festivals. She is also the music director at the Fairbanks Lutheran Church, a member of the National Association for Music Education, and is the current president of the Alaska Music Educators Association.

Barbara Quaille teaches general music at **Midnight Sun Elementary School**. Barbara is from the east coast and went to college in Washington DC where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education, followed by a Master of Music in Organ Performance. She spent 30 fulfilling years teaching music and all subjects to various combinations of grades 1-8 in a private education system, along with teaching piano lessons at her home studio, accompanying church choirs, and serving as church organist for various churches. She is now in her third year of teaching for the FNSBSD along with being a church pianist/accompanist.

Thomas Ramos teaches band and orchestra at **Barnette Magnet School** and elementary band at **Denali and Hunter Elementary Schools**. Information not submitted.

Sue Waltman teaches orchestra at **Anne Wein, University Park and Woodriver Elementary Schools**. Sue was born in Seattle and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. She started playing the piano in 4th grade and then started playing the cello when her school offered it in 6th grade. She graduated from East Anchorage High school in 1999 to attend Wheaton College in Wheaton, IL to study music education. She then returned home to Anchorage to teach beginning and high school orchestra for the Anchorage School District. After a year, she decided to pursue a degree in music therapy and headed to New York City to study music therapy at New York University. After completing her Masters in music therapy she returned to Anchorage again and began working at a special needs school for the Anchorage School District. After four years she got married and moved to the Fairbanks North Star area and started teaching band and orchestra for the Fairbanks North Star School District. Ms. Waltman is an active performer and teacher in the Fairbanks community. She has played with the Fairbanks Symphony, directed the cello choir for the Fairbanks Suzuki School of Talent and has a home studio where she is teaching suzuki cello. She is also a board-certified music therapist always looking for opportunities to help others through music.

Liesl Wietgreffe teaches band at **Midnight Sun, North Pole, and Ticasuk Brown Elementary Schools**. Liesl attended high school and college in southwest Wisconsin and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in 2004. During college she was the drum major for the Marching Pioneers for two seasons and won the school's concerto competition on Soprano Saxophone in 2002. Mrs. Wietgreffe has taught in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District for 14 years as a music teacher at Hunter Elementary, Randy Smith Middle School, West Valley High School and the three schools she currently teaches at. She has taught band, jazz band, choir, steel pan, orchestra, general music and world drumming. She received the Yale Distinguished Music Educator of the Year Award in 2013, was named to School Band and Orchestra Magazine "50 Directors Who Make a Difference" list in 2012 and has been nominated for the BP Teacher of Excellence award. Mrs. Wietgreffe enjoys accompanying her church choir, cooking and having jam sessions with her family in her free time. She is married and has 3 daughters aged 11, 9 and 6.

Middle School

Gwendolyn P. Brazier teaches middle school choir, ukulele and keyboarding at **Barnette Magnet School** (*see Elementary Music School Teacher Biographies for more information*).

Bobb Lockwood teaches band, choir, orchestra, guitar, jazz band & world drumming at **Randy Smith Middle School**. Robert (Bobb) was born in Central Wisconsin and raised in the suburbs of Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. From a very young age, music was always an important part of Bobb's life. After attending St. Anthony Village High School, he earned an Associate of Arts degree from Anoka Ramsey Community College before attending the University of Wisconsin - River Falls, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education. Mr. Lockwood moved to Alaska in 2008 to take a job with the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. He is currently teaching band, orchestra, jazz, choir, and guitar at Randy Smith Middle School, where he has been working for the last 10 years. Mr. Lockwood is an active performer in the Fairbanks Community. He has played euphonium in the Fairbanks community band, guitar/mandolin for the Fairbanks Light Opera Theater, tuba in the UAF symphonic band, and is currently one of the conductors for the Fairbanks Youth Symphony organization. Mr. Lockwood was selected for the BP Teacher of Excellence award in 2013.

Campbell Longworth is currently in his third year teaching band, orchestra, choir and jazz band at **Ryan Middle School**. He was born and raised in Petersburg, Alaska. He began playing trumpet in 6th grade and played through high school in pep band, concert band, and jazz band, adding choir his senior year. After graduating from Petersburg High School in 2008, he attended University of Alaska Fairbanks where he earned his Bachelor's in Music Education in 2015..

Mr. Longworth is an active performer in the Fairbanks Community. He enjoys playing and performing in the Community Band, FLOT, Accordion Club, North Star Strings, the Fairbanks Shape Note Group, and Opera Fairbanks. He also teaches The Youth Wind Band sponsored by the Fairbanks Youth Orchestras, and often collaborates with other music teachers by playing in the pit for musicals, or in the pep band at West Valley.

José L. López-Ramos teaches band, orchestra and choir at Ben Eielson Jr./Sr. High School. (*see Elementary Music School Teacher Biographies for more information*).

Katrina Nore teaches choir and orchestra at **North Pole Middle School**. She grew up in the music programs of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District singing in choirs and playing in orchestra. She attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks and has a bachelor's degree in Music Education K-12. Her primary instrument is the viola, though she grew up playing violin all through high school. Katrina has played in the Arctic Chamber Orchestra and the Fairbanks Symphony and has played in several Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre performances.

Simon Traynor teaches band, orchestra and choir at **Tanana Middle School**. He attended the University of Wisconsin in River Falls in instrumental music education. His emphasis being trumpet in Wisconsin, Simon has taken advantage of the variety of music endeavors available in interior Alaska and begun to focus on Irish fiddling. He has performing on trumpet with the Fairbanks Community Jazz Band and many Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre shows. While in Alaska, he earned a Master's in Integrated Arts Education and brings other arts into the classroom whenever possible.

Thomas Ramos teaches middle school band and orchestra at **Barnette Magnet School** (*see Elementary Music School Teacher Biographies for more information*).

Todd Wienke teaches band and guitar at **North Pole Middle School**. He was born in Buffalo, NY and grew up in western New York state. He studied classical guitar at SUNY Fredonia School of Music with James Piorkowski, earning a bachelor's in Instrumental Music Education in 1998. By 2005, he had also earned a master's degree in Educational Technology from Buffalo State University and was well into a career that included positions at Baker Hall in Buffalo and Silver Creek Central School. This is Todd's 18th year as a teacher and his 5th year in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, currently as Band Director and Guitar Class Instructor at North Pole Middle School.

Todd has been music director and guitarist for the Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre's production of *Lizzie* and *RENT* as well as Fairbanks Drama Associations *Buddy Holly Story*. He has also played guitar for Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre's *Shrek* and FDA's *Ring of Fire*.

High School

Bruce Hanson teaches choir at **North Pole High School**. Bruce graduated from the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse in 1987 with degrees in choral music, general music and social studies with a minor in psychology. He spent his first professional years teaching history, psychology and sociology in Minnesota and Wisconsin. After moving to Alaska he spent four years as a company member in Juneau's Perseverance Theatre, serving as an actor, composer and music director before returning to Fairbanks.

Hanson has been the choral director at North Pole High School for the past twenty years and received his Master's Degree in Musical Theatre at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2010. He is quite active in the community arts scene, having performed with Fairbanks Light Opera Theater, Fairbanks Drama Association, Fairbanks Shakespeare Theater and Palace Theater for nearly thirty years. He is a member of the National Association for Music Education and the Alaska Music Educators Association. Awards Received: Alaska Music Educator of Year, BP Teacher of Excellence and was honored with an official proclamation that December 18, 2017 be declared as Bruce Hanson day for his work as an educator by the the North Pole City Council.

Gwendolyn P. Brazier teaches band and orchestra at **North Pole High School** (*see Elementary Music School Teacher Biographies for more information*).

José L. López-Ramos teaches band, orchestra and choir at **Ben Eielson Jr./Sr. High School**. (*see Elementary Music School Teacher Biographies for more information*).

Tristan Hovest teaches band and orchestra at **Lathrop High School**. He was raised in Juneau, Alaska in a rich culture of arts. Tristan started his musical career as a drummer in an african hand drumming ensemble at age 5. He joined public school music in the 6th grade as a percussionist, but quickly picked up the trumpet. In high school he learned most of the band instruments and played in all of the bands at Juneau Douglas High School. In addition to band, Tristan sang in the Juneau Douglas High School choirs and played in the pit orchestras for their musicals. During high school Tristan also became a member of the Juneau Symphony, which he has performed with for the last 15 years. He started his college career at the University of Idaho in Moscow, where he performed with many of the ensembles. He transferred to University of Alaska Fairbanks where he finished his degree in Music Education in 2014. Upon graduation of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Tristan started his teaching career at Lathrop High School as the director of bands. In 2016 Tristan took over the Lathrop

Orchestra program, and now teaches Band and Orchestra at Lathrop. Outside of school Tristan performs with many local bands, including jazz combos and the 70's funk band Shagg.

Carolyn Soderlund teaches choir at **Lathrop High School**. Mrs. Soderlund has been teaching in the FNSBSD for 27 years. She received her B.A. in music education from Eastern Washington University. She has been the choir director at Lathrop High School for 25 years. (from school year 1984-85 to 1997-98, and again from 2004-05 to the present) She also taught music at Two Rivers School for 2 years (2002–03 till 2003-04) Her first teaching assignment she served as choir director for Tanana Middle School and Lathrop High School. At Lathrop High School she has set an example of excellence among her choirs. Throughout the years the Lathrop Choir has received numerous awards at both the Region and State level. She has taken her choir to sing in Carnegie Hall (upon invitation) 5 times to sing under the baton of distinguished choral directors and symphony directors. Her choirs have also traveled to other events to compete in choral competitions and have always received Gold awards, the highest honor that a choir can receive. Mrs. Soderlund was awarded Alaska Music Educators Association “Music Teacher of the Year” award in 2016. The excellent choral tradition at Lathrop High School continues to thrive under the direction of Carolyn Soderlund.

Trevor Adams teaches orchestra at **West Valley High School**. (*see Elementary Music School Teacher Biographies for more information*).

Lucas Clooten teaches band, choir, steel drums and jazz band at **West Valley High School**. He was born in Fargo, North Dakota and moved to Alaska in 1982. He grew up in Fairbanks and attended school in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. Mr. Clooten started playing trombone in fourth grade with Mrs. Wendy Ward at Pearl Creek Elementary, continuing with Mrs. Sandy Clark at Tanana Middle School, and finishing with Mr. Don Hildie at Lathrop High School. He was band librarian at Lathrop for two years, and attended the Pacific Basin Music Festival in Honolulu, Hawaii with the band.

Mr. Clooten began attending the University of Alaska Fairbanks after graduating from Lathrop in 1997. During his tenure at UAF, he twice helped host the Alaska All-State Music Festival and Alaska Music Educators Association Conference, is a past president of the UAF collegiate chapter of NAFME, and is the founding conductor of the Northern Lights Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Clooten toured with the UAF Jazz Band on trips to the Montreux, North Sea, and Notre Dame Jazz Festivals, and was the administrative assistant for the UAF Jazz Festival for three years. He studied trombone with Dr. James Bicigo for five years, and is a past member of the UAF Wind Symphony. He has attended music conferences in Anchorage, Bellevue, Portland, Spokane, and Nashville as a member of NAFME. Mr. Clooten has worked for the UAF Music Department, the UAF Summer Fine Arts Camp, and as the Librarian and Stage Manager for the Fairbanks Symphony Association. He spent his first year teaching band and choir at Ben Eielson Jr./Sr. High School and ten years teaching band and orchestra at North Pole High School before transferring to West Valley. He has been music director for the Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre shows *Into The Woods*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, and *Meet Me In St. Louis*, performs in the Fairbanks Community Band and Fairbanks Community Jazz Band and Fairbanks Symphony when he can, and helps conduct and sing on a regular basis at church.

Elementary School Music Data

Class Time:

In most buildings, elementary general music classes meet 2-3 times per week on a rotating schedule. These specialist service Pre-K through 6th grade students depending on each school’s classroom needs. In addition, these teachers provide music instruction to special education students, both mainstreamed and self-contained. None of the charter schools in our district receive music instruction from a certified music educator. All other elementary schools receive instruction from highly qualified music professionals who have at least a bachelor’s degree, full state certification, and have demonstrated competency in music. General music teachers are encouraged to coordinate several concerts a year in order to showcase student development, provide performance opportunities, and engage the community in musical activities.

The following chart shows the amount of general music class time received by each student at each elementary school.

School	Class Length	Times Per Week	FTE
Anderson	30 min	2	.5
Anne Wien	40 min	2	1.0
Arctic Light	30 min	2	1.0
Barnette Magnet	55 min	4 (if taken as elective each quarter)	.5
Chinook Charter	0 min	0	0
Crawford	30 min	2	.5
Denali	30 min	2x (K, 4-6) 3x (1-3)	1.0
Fairbanks B.E.S.T.	0 min	0	0
Hunter	40 min	2	1.0
Joy	35 min	2.5 (rotating schedule on Fridays)	1.0
Ladd	35 min	2	1.0
Nordale	35 min	2	1.0

North Pole	30 min	2	1.0
Midnight Sun	30 min	2	1.0
Pearl Creek	35 min (Pre-K 30 min)	2	1.0
Salcha	25 min(K-1) 40 min(2-6)	2	.5
Ticasuk	30 min	2 (3 times if class receives music enrichment)	1.0
Two Rivers	45 min	2	.4
University Park	30 min	2	1.0
Watershed Charter	0 min	0	0
Weller	30 min	2	1.0
Woodriver	35 min	2	1.0

Student Contact:

Total Elementary School Enrollment –7,738

Total Elementary School Music Enrollment –7,155

Average Elementary School Music Enrollment – 93%

(The following chart shows enrollment at each elementary school)

School	Total Enrollment	Music Enrollment	Percentage of School
Anderson Elem	214	214	100
Anne Wien Elem	375	375	100
Arctic Light Elem	532	532	100
Barnette Magnet	336 (Elem Numbers Only)		
Boreal Sun Charter	164	0	0
Chinook Charter	114	0	0

Crawford Elem	296	296	100
Denali Elem	341	341	100
Fairbanks B.E.S.T.	115	0	0
Hunter Elem	372	372	100
Joy Elem	418	418	100
Ladd Elem	492	492	100
Midnight Sun Elem	476	476	100
Nordale Elem	356	354	100
North Pole Elem	479	490	100
Pearl Creek Elem	491	506	100
Salcha Elem	69	73	100
Ticasuk Elem	496	498	100
Two Rivers	76	76	100
University Park	472	472	100
Watershed Charter	154	0	0
Weller	465	465	100
Woodriver	435	435	100

Middle School Music Data

Class Time:

Music is offered at every traditional middle school in the FNSBSD. The three traditional middle schools in Fairbanks each have one full-time music director who teaches all the music classes offered at that site. In North Pole the position is split between two people. All of these schools offer choir, band, and orchestra in addition to any other classes such as jazz band, guitar, or enrichment classes. These professionals are responsible for choosing music for performances and for growing students' skills. For a middle school music director in the FNSBSD, there are several different classes for which to prepare. In fact, rarely is a class duplicated in their day, which equates to usually at least five different preps in a day. Middle school music classes are taught by highly qualified music professionals with at least a bachelor's degree in music education, full state certification, and has demonstrated competency in music by passing the Praxis II test.

(The following chart shows the amount of class time given to students at each site in addition to the percentage of students participating in music at those schools.)

Middle School	Total Enrollment	Music Enrollment	Percentage of School	Minutes Per Week	Classes Per Week
Barnette (K-8)	97 (7 th /8 th only)	61	62.9%	220	4
North Pole	593	227	38.3%	260	4
Randy Smith	300	119	39.7%	260	4
Ryan	382	134	35.1%	260	4
Tanana	390	100	25.6%	260	4

Student Contact:

Total Middle School Enrollment – 1762
 Total Middle School Music Enrollment – 641
 Average Middle School Music Enrollment – 36.4%

Curriculum:

The music repertoire for each middle school group is unique to the group, so the teachers construct their curricula individually, according to best practices, student skill levels, materials based on their professional assessment, and in alignment with district, state, and national music standards.

Class time involves rehearsing music for upcoming concerts, contests, and other performances. Additionally, a variety of individual tests, projects, and other forms of assessment designed by the music teacher are utilized to promote student learning.

These assessments often include:

- Playing tests -- playing alone and/or with others from selected repertoire
- Theory tests -- demonstrating understanding of technical elements of music and literacy
- Performances -- events like concerts, competitions, and community performances
- Class Participation -- bringing instrument, music, pencil, and demonstrating competency and effort on a daily basis
- Practice Charts
- Self-Assessments

Classes Offered:

(The following chart shows the classes that are being offered at each middle school site.)

Middle School	Per. 0 (Before or After School)	Per. 1	Per. 2	Per. 3	Per. 4	Per. 5	Per. 6	Per. 7
North Pole		7 th Orchestra 13	Home Ec. S1: 28 8 th Choir S2: 29	6 th Orchestra 19	8 th Orchestra 20	6/7 Choir 29		
		Guitar 27		6 th Band 27	8 th Band 11	Guitar 28	7 th Band 24	Advisory 17
Randy Smith	Jazz Band 17	Guitar 17	Orchestra 29	Band 39	Choir 17			Advisory 20
Ryan			Concert Band 20	Choir 24	Varsity Band 15	Concert Orchestra 18	Intermediate Orchestra 13	Jazz Band 44
Tanana		Band 17	Orchestra 20		Band 20	Choir 19	Orchestra 24	Advisory 14
Barnette Magnet							Musical Theater (6 th -8 th) Q1:	Adv Symphony 5 th – 8 th : (Q2-4 Only)

Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities:

Middle school music directors provide our students and communities with musical experiences such as participation in concerts (three or more per year) as well as opportunities to hear live music in said concerts.

They also do extra activities like travelling to state or regional festivals, and engendering service learning projects like performing at community functions or other schools. North Pole has a handbell group that meets after school once per week. North Pole offers jazz band twice per week after school.

High School Music Data

Class Time:

(The following chart shows the percentage of students participating in music and the amount of class time given to students at each high school.)

High School	Total Enrollment	Music Enrollment	Percentage of School	Minutes Per Week	Classes Per Week
Ben Eielson Jr./Sr.	350	46	13.1%	256	4
Hutchison	408	0	0%		4
Lathrop	1011	259	25.6%	260	4
North Pole	704	177	25.1%	256	4
West Valley	968	185	19.1%	256	4

*Numbers from State of Alaska Report Card to the Public-School Level

Student Contact:

Total High School Enrollment – 3441
 Total High School Music Enrollment – 667
 Average High School Music Enrollment – 19.4%

Numbers removing Hutchinson from the equation:

Total High School Enrollment – 3033
 Total High School Music Enrollment – 667
 Average High School Music Enrollment – 22.0%

Curriculum:

The music repertoire for each high school group is unique to the group, so the teachers construct their curricula individually, according to best practices, student skill levels, materials based on their professional assessment, and in alignment with district, state, and national music standards.

Class time involves rehearsing music for upcoming concerts, contests, and other performances. Additionally, a variety of individual tests, projects, and other forms of assessment designed by the music teacher are utilized to promote student learning.

These assessments often include:

- Playing tests -- playing alone and/or with others from selected repertoire
- Theory tests -- demonstrating understanding of technical elements of music and literacy
- Performances -- events like concerts, competitions, and community performances
- Class Participation -- bringing instrument, music, pencil, and demonstrating competency and effort on a daily basis
- Practice Charts
- Self-Assessments

Classes Offered:

(The following chart shows which classes are offered at each high school during each period of the day included zero hour and after school.)

School	Per. 0	Per. 1	Per. 2	Per. 3	Per. 4	Per. 5	Per. 6
Ben Eielson Jr./Sr.		Orchestra 13	Choir 13	Band 20			
Hutchison	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lathrop	Jazz Band 15		Concert Band 20	Concert Orchestra 17	Symphonic Band 40	Chamber Orchestra 36	
	Beg/Int Guitar S1: 17 S2:17	Mixed Choir S1: 35 S2:35	Treble Choir S1:29 S2:25		Concert Choir S1:30 S2:28	Show Choir S1:20 S2:17	School Musical M-Th 3:00-6:00 Sat 12:00-3:00 for ~7 weeks
North Pole		Orchestra 20	Band 15				
	Jazz Choir 12	Treble Choir 30	Mixed Choir 40	Men's Choir 20	Concert Choir 40		
West Valley	Jazz Band 17			S1: Mixed Choir 26 S2: Mixed Choir 27	S1: Beg Guitar 19 S2: Beg/Adv Steel Drums 16/3	S1: Concert Band 24 S2: Concert Band 18	S1: Symphonic Band 27 S2: Symphonic Band 30

		Chamber Orchestra 23	Concert Orchestra S1: 45 S2: 38				
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State and National Music Awards

The existence of the ASAA/First National Bank Alaska All –State Music Festival enables outstanding high school musicians to participate as members of select statewide, band, choral, and orchestral music ensembles and promotes the highest standards of musicianship. The goal of this activity is to foster and inspire technical achievement, aesthetic understanding, and critical listening skills that allow for the culmination of a final creative musical performance of the highest artistic level.

Adopted by the All-State Music Festival Committee on February 10, 1996

Fairbanks had significant representation at the ASAA All-State Festival and ASAA State Solo and Ensemble Festival. At the highly competitive 2017 ASAA All-State Festival Competition, Region 6 (Delta, Fairbanks, and North Pole) submitted 87 auditions of which 53 were accepted. This equates to a 61% acceptance rate. This is the highest acceptance rate of all regions in Alaska!

Five of the First Chair awards at All-State were given to our students, which is 13% of first chairs given.

First Chairs Band Students (21 possible chairs)

Jackson Brannan WVHS

Ruth Heidel WVHS

Jacob Batchelder LHS

Whelmina Gower WVHS

MIXED CHOIR (8 possible chairs)

Dane Soderlund LHS

ORCHESTRA (5 possible chairs)

TREBLE CHOIR (4 possible chairs)

ASAA All-State Students

Lathrop High School

Jacob Batchelder (Awarded 1st Chair)

Sonia Cheney

Morgan Holman

Joshua Mandich

Lillian Sears

Chase Melville

Sheryl Swarner

Amara Hackett

Dane Soderlund (Awarded 1st Chair)

Desmond Solis

Camden Kegley

Tony Dickinson

Charles Taliana

Paige Ellis

Chloe Sears

Lauren Bird

Allie Plachinski

Kat Rhynard *

Victor Zhou

Jenna Watson

Emily Monicken

Ben Eielson Jr./Sr. High School

Mason Wolverton (alternate)

Jaden Martin

North Pole High School

Lindsay Moisan

Leah Dustin

Rania Girard

Brittany Roberts

Ashley Roberts

Amy Stefan

Moses Halbert

Michael Rosendahl

Jeremiah Scott

Jevohn Clarke

Joslynn Rock

Tiana Taylor

Adara Wyman

West Valley High School

Rebecca Kahoe

Ruth Heidel (Awarded 1st Chair)

Jackson Brannan (Awarded 1st Chair)

Eli Wyatt

Jesse Bryant

Matthew Wrobel

Oscar Beausoleil

Wihelmina Gower (Awarded 1st Chair)

Amelia Covington

Brian Ely

Else Mayo

Alex Apicella-Adams

Tiernan Brenner-Gelvin

Dylan Candelaria

Andrew Cox

Sydney Cox

Shayna Matson

Clara Hedman

Jack Cater

Taylor Templeton

Rosalee Bertram

Aiden Johns

Nikolas McGraw

Stella Bettisworth

Helen Heidel

Wilhelmina Gower

Rebecca Kahoe

Oscar Beausoleil

American Choral Directors Association All Northwest Choirs

North Pole

Lindsay Moisan

Tiana Taylor

National Honors Performance Series Concert Choir at Carnegie Hall

North Pole

Jeremiah Scott

ASSA State Solo & Ensemble

The goal of State Solo and Ensemble is to foster and inspire technical achievement, aesthetic understand and critical listening skills. Students prequalify for participation by receiving a “1” or “Superior” rating at a qualifying regional festival. The students below received a “Superior” rating at regional festival and were therefore qualified to participate in Alaska State Solo and Ensemble Festival in Anchorage in 2016.

At the 2017 State Solo and Ensemble Festival the FNSBSD was equally well-represented with 12 out of 28 first place command performance awards given to FNSBSD students, which is 43% of the total first place awards given.

State Solo & Ensemble Command Performance:

Cello- Van Levey WVHS

Trumpet- Jacob Batchelder LHS

Vocal Solo- Leah Dustin NPHS

Large Vocal Ensemble- LHS

Music Theatre Solo- Christian Lynch- NPHS

Music Theatre Ensemble- NPHS

World Instrument- WVHS

High String- Else Mayo- WVHS

Jazz Vocal Ensemble- NPHS

Trumpet Quintet- LHS

Show Choir- LHS

Jazz Instrumental Ensemble- LHS and WVHS

Out of 28 categories

Good Things

Elementary:

All traditional elementary school students receive general music classes twice per week.

All non-charter elementary school students, regardless of socioeconomic status, in the FNSBSD have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument in 4th through 6th grade and participate in a band or orchestra.

Students have performance opportunities as part of those ensembles. Student performances create positive school culture and engage the community in school activities. These performances provide for personalized learning and group cooperation and collaboration.

Some elementary schools offer choir in grades 3-6.

Some elementary schools offer jazz band after school for students in grades 4-6.

Woodriver, University Park, and Ladd Elementaries got to participate in the First Interior Alaska Jazz Festival at UAF in April 2018.

Students are given access to instrumental music instruction during the school day making it equitable for all students. This is possible because the FNSBSD provides instruments and equipment for student use.

The receipt of the anonymous \$110,000 donation for elementary musical instruments will help facilitate our districts' instrumental repair and replacement program.

Middle School:

As students move from elementary to middle school, they have an automatic positive peer group through their band, choir and orchestra ensemble participation that will stay with them throughout their school career.

These positive peer groups also provide a place for military students to find a home at their new schools.

Ryan Middle School jazz band participated in the First Interior Alaska Jazz Festival at UAF in April 2018.

High School

Fairbanks had significant representation at the ASAA All-State Festival and ASAA State Solo and Ensemble Festival. At the highly competitive 2017 ASAA All-State Festival Competition, 53 Students of the 344 total participants were from the FNSBSD. This equates to 15% of the participants from the entire state were from our community.

Five of the First Chair awards at All-State were given to our students, which is 13% of first chairs given.

At the 2017 State Solo and Ensemble the FNSBSD was equally well-represented with 12 out of 28 first place command performance awards given to FNSBSD students, which is 43% of the total first place awards given.

North Pole High School produces a large-scale musical every year. North Pole High students and teachers produced and performed Annie Get Your Gun.

Lathrop High School puts on a large-scale musical every year or two. This year, Lathrop students and teachers produced and performed The Wizard of Oz. These musical endeavors have grown over the past 9 years. Initially they started with about \$2000.00 of seed money and now have grown that to over \$35,000.00 in profits from shows. Pretty amazing!!

Miscellaneous:

All middle schools and high schools offer band, choir, and orchestra. This is very important in creating opportunity and equity among schools.

Teachers in the FNSBSD collaborate to produce Music In Our School Month Concerts which encompass students from grades 4-12.

All music teachers in the FNSBSD are highly qualified in music.

Music teachers from the FNSBSD are members of the Alaska Music Educators Association and attend many state and national conferences.

Some FNSBSD music teachers and community members collaborated with UAF to put on the first ever Interior Alaska Jazz Festival in April 2018. After several years without a local jazz festival, this is a welcome change! We hope this will get bigger and better in future years.

Collaboration occurs with other community groups such as Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre, Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra, UAF Department of Music and Fairbanks Concert Association. Many groups come and perform at schools and/or come to schools to work with students in order to improve their skills.

The music teachers of the FNSBSD sponsor a Music in Our Schools Month T-shirt design contest for their t-shirt fundraiser every year. The funds are used to give scholarships to music students to attend music/performance summer camps. **In 2017**, the MIOSM Scholarship Committee awarded **\$3100** in scholarships to local students so that they could have musical experience and training over the summer! The following students received awards in varying amounts: Joshua Swank, Ella Engman, Rylee DeVaughn, Oliver Opgenorth, D'Shea Belton, Madison Davis, Adeline Hiemstra, Madelyn Keuter, Piper Lowry-Sims, Eli Wyatt, Jacob Pletcher, Alyssa Stewart-Barger, Lydia Patterson, Madelyn Guffey, Shane Moody, Zac Cook, Robin Eagleton, Jackson Brannan, Enigma Swan Adams, Ariana Dolloff, Angelina Romano, Dylan Candelaria, and Aiden Johns. Their camps of choice included Alaska Cello Intensive, Fairbanks Bluegrass Camp for Kids, Flot Jr. Summer Fine Arts Camp, UAF Summer Music Academy, and Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival.

The district has been including music teachers in conversations about schedules and assignment changes. We look forward to continued conversations in this positive manner in the upcoming school year and beyond. This will ensure that our students receive an equitable and excellent music education in all our schools.

Recommendations

Equitable Access to Music Education

Create a district music plan that provides guidance for all schools (charter, magnet, public) on the necessary curriculum and classes students will have access to as a part of an equitable and excellent music education.

This aligns with the FNSBSD's motto "equity and excellence for all". It also aligns with the Fairbanks School Board's core value to be student centered.

Jazz Band

Offer jazz band as a class at every middle school. *This aligns with the FNSBSD's motto "equity and excellence for all". It also aligns with the Fairbanks School Board's core value to be student centered.*

- This can be achieved by offering jazz band as a zero-hour class or during an advisory-type or exploratory-type class.
- Currently jazz band is not offered at all middle schools. It is, however, offered at all high schools.
- Because jazz band is an advanced class and requires critical thinking and another level of understanding in music, this discrepancy puts some students at a severe disadvantage to others when they go on to high school. Students who attend middle schools that offer jazz band are better prepared for this advanced ensemble, while students who attend a middle school that does not offer jazz band as a class have much less skill preparation for this.
- Offering jazz band as a class at every middle school would align more closely with the FNSBSD's goal to be equitable.

Strategic Instrument Repair/Replacement

Create a strategic plan of capital outlay on a rotational basis for the repair and replacement of aging instrument and/or equipment that may require expensive repairs or are beyond repair. Instruments have a life-span. At some point they are beyond repair or at least beyond cheap repair. Instruments that are broken or difficult to play are very discouraging for students. *This aligns with the Fairbanks School Board's core values to be student-centered and innovative as well as its strategic goals to provide organizational support.*

Elementary Instrument Donation

The \$110,000 donation should go directly toward elementary instruments. Teachers at each school should be tasked with selecting instruments to purchase to ensure quality instruments throughout our district. Purchases should be made based on teacher recommendations and not based on the cheapest option for the district. Instruments need to be of good quality (brand) so they will last through many years. High quality instruments can periodically be repaired through our budget whereas it's not cost-effective to constantly repair/replace low quality instruments. With the stimulus money received a number of years ago, bids were sent out for

instruments; decisions were made through purchasing and resulted in instruments that can no longer be used with students. This situation should not be repeated. Better quality instruments help students be more successful in music. The district should procure high quality instruments so as to make the best use of this donation as it was intended. *This aligns with the FNSBSD's motto "equity and excellence for all". It also aligns with the Fairbanks School Board's core value to be student centered.*

Upgrade Technology in All Music Classrooms

There are music classrooms that have not been kept up with current technology within the district. *This aligns with the Fairbanks School Board's strategic goals to provide technology integration.*

Principals who share itinerant staff should work collaboratively to maximize the use of time and resources.

In many situations, elementary instrumental music educators are not allowed to teach because of the needs of the school schedule. Currently it is up to the music teachers to reconcile these issues to the best of their ability. *This aligns with the Fairbanks School Board's core values to be collaborative and innovative as well as its strategic goals to execute effective communication and provide organizational support.*

Flexible Staffing Options

In light of current budget concerns, we would encourage the district to look at a variety of staffing models to ensure that our students receive an equitable and excellent music education. Flexible staffing and sharing staff among various buildings/levels will allow teachers to best serve our students. Full time teaching positions will help keep and recruit high quality teachers for our district. *This aligns with the Fairbanks School Board's core values to be collaborative and innovative as well as its strategic goals to execute effective communication and provide organizational support.*

District-Wide Music Hiring Committee

Under the guidance of the Fine Arts Coordinator, we recommend assembling a committee to assist in interviewing and hiring quality music teachers. *This aligns with the Fairbanks School Board's core values to be collaborative and innovative as well as its strategic goals to execute effective communication and provide organizational support.*

Topics for future consideration in reports:

- Surveying students to gain information such as
 - Why the decline in music participation from middle school to high school? Is it scheduling conflicts? Is it that students only get one elective?
 - What keeps students participating in music?
 - When and why do students cease to participate in music in school?
- Gathering further data from schools and breaking down that information to gain further knowledge.
- Getting numbers for elementary schools broken down by grades so that we can have accurate percentages in participation among grades rather than total school population.
- Gathering more information about music students who receive scholarships for continuing education.
- Budget considerations both district-wide and site-based.

