

Music Department Presentation Education Committee



Monday, April 4, 2016

9:45 – 10:30 am

Music Courses/Opportunities Grades K – 12



Grades K-5

General music (all students take this)
Chorus 4 and 5
Band 5
Orchestra 5

Grades 6-8

Band
Chorus
Orchestra
General music (students not in a performing group)

After school opportunities

Jazz band
Drama club
Guitar club

Grades 9 – 12

Concert Band
Symphonic Band
Chorus
Chamber Singers
Orchestra
Chamber Orchestra
Music Theory

After school opportunities

Jazz Band
Rock Orchestra
Drama Club



Bell Top Elementary Band working with guest artist Dr. Mark Filsinger

District-Wide Instrumental Festival

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Friday, February 12, 2016



Music Mission Statement

The music department in the East Greenbush Central School District affirms that music education provides students with the unique and valuable experiences of participating, creating and performing.

Music is a discipline with articulate and sequential content that compliments other areas of the school curriculum. Music education places intellectual demands that develop problem solving techniques and critical thinking skills. Proficiency in music as mandated by the NYS Standards is essential in promoting the maximum growth in every student.



Community Outreach



Education Foundation	Fundraisers for local fire department
MS/HS musicals	EG tree lighting
Retirement/Nursing Homes	Halloween Parades
Chamber Singers @ football games	Holiday Caroling
Veteran's Day Ceremony	Character Education (elementary morning program)
EG Library	Genet 75th Anniversary Celebration (student performances)
Evening Concerts	



Genet staff learning "World Drumming" with Mrs. Scolaro

CHS Chamber Singers - *Tree Lighting*

"Deck The Hall"



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Outside the Community

Empire State Youth Orchestra

All County Music Festival

Suburban Council Music Festival

Area All State

Conference All State



WTEN "Good Morning Message"





“Your Smiling Face”
CHS Chamber Singers

Who Can Participate in our Programs?



Our program is open to all students. We give a wide variety of opportunities to our students.

Our program teaches life skills as well as develops character by:

- developing team work
- demonstrating perseverance in order to gain success
- working individually to accomplish a common goal
- promoting responsibility
- developing time management skills
- enhancing leadership skills
- developing a sense of pride and integrity



Program Goals

from our 2014-2015 program review

- Retention-We are working toward increasing our band student retention rate from middle school to high school. We currently have a 60% retention rate. We would like to increase the rate to at least a 65% retention rate.
- 7th-12th grade students in chorus will work to improve their sight-reading ability.
- Update and rewrite the existing 4-12 choral curriculum.
- Increasing Enrollment - We are pleased with the growing number of students involved in the Orchestra Program. Data shows 188 students enrolled at the end of the 2013-14 school year. We would like to see district enrollment increase to at least 250 string students.
- Elementary students will sing in tune with a good tone and use good diction and dynamic shading.

Data Points (Student GPAs)

From the graduating class of 2014 (328 students total), the average GPA of students who **were enrolled** in a performing group their senior year (band, chorus or orchestra - totaling 34 students).

92%

From the graduating class of 2014 (328 students total), the average GPA of students who **were not enrolled** in a performing group in their senior year (294 students).

84%

The average GPA of students in grades 9-12 who **were enrolled** in a performing group (band, chorus or orchestra - totaling 243 students).

88%

The average GPA of students in grades 9-12 who **were not enrolled** in a performing group (band, chorus or orchestra - totaling 701 students).

83%



Data Points (Regents Scores)

Students who took the English 11 Exam who **were enrolled** in a performing group (band, chorus or orchestra) in 2014.

91%

Students who took the English 11 Exam who **were not enrolled** in a performing group (band, chorus or orchestra) in 2014.

85%

Students who took the Integrated Algebra Exam who **were enrolled** in a performing group (band, chorus or orchestra) in 2014.

89%

Students who took the Integrated Algebra Exam who **were not** enrolled in a performing group (band, chorus or orchestra) in 2014.

80%





Middle School (ELA Data)



Middle School ELA data for students who **are** in band, chorus or orchestra.

Grade 5	316.5 (level 2)
Grade 6	320.1 (level 3)
Grade 7	315 (level 2)

Middle School ELA data for students who **did not** take band, chorus or orchestra.

Grade 5	311.5 (level 2)
Grade 6	311 (level 2)
Grade 7	308 (level 2)

Middle School (Math Data)



Middle School MATH data for students who **are** in band, chorus or orchestra.

Grade 5	330 (level 3)
Grade 6	328 (level 3)
Grade 7	327 (level 3)

Middle School MATH data for students who **did not** take band, chorus or orchestra.

Grade 5	325 (level 3)
Grade 6	320 (level 3)
Grade 7	319 (level 2)

Five Year Program Review

Data

*There is a perception given to students in the transition years that staying in a performing ensemble may impede your ability to succeed in other academic subjects. **Our data shows otherwise!***



Student Testimonials

Here are a few excerpts from notes received by teachers....

“The orchestra room is like a second home.”

"The past 4 years have been rough because I'm not good at school, but I've looked forward to rehearsal every day!"

"I was given so many opportunities to grow as a musician and as a person"

“I greatly enjoy band and am extremely glad that I am able to have you as my conductor for three years in a row.”

Austin Baggetta - *CHS Senior*

“The East Greenbush Central School District's music department has been an essential asset to my education as an individual. Never before have I seen a program that has had such a widespread, yet impactful influence not only on the student body, but also on the community. Music has the intriguing ability to amalgamate different groups of people; if I had never joined the music department, I would never have met many different kinds of people who have contributed to the creation of the individual I am today. If I had never joined the music department, I would never have had so many opportunities to bring joy to the people around me. Music is a second voice. Loud and impactful, this second voice should be experienced by everyone, and the opportunity to participate in such a program is pivotal in an individual's educational experience. I would recommend joining the music department to any child who is given the ability. Overall, I am extremely thankful for the opportunities and experiences I've had through this department, and I plan to bring my experiences into the world as I transition into college to enhance the lives of the people around me.”

Lindsay Heck - *CHS Senior*

"I have been involved in the East Greenbush Music Department for the past 8 years, singing in chorus as well as playing flute in band. Currently, I am in both symphonic band and chamber singers, and have been for the past three years. I have also participated in various all county and suburban council festivals, even singing in the All State Women's Chorus last year. Since elementary school, music has always been one of my favorite subjects. Although I am an honor roll student, I have never been drawn to math or science the way that I am drawn to music. It is something that I am extremely passionate about, and the joy and satisfaction felt when both performing and listening to music cannot be matched. It is a unique and universal mode for people to express their feelings and emotions, sometimes without the use of words. These strong feelings toward music are the reason I am pursuing a career in music education next year at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam (where many of my music teachers also studied). I want to be able to encourage and inspire others to see the importance of music and the impact that it can have on your life. Music has helped shape me into the person I am today. It has taught me good work ethic, perseverance, and determination, as well as how to work well in a team. In addition, the hard work of the East Greenbush Music Department has helped truly prepare me for my future as a music educator by aiding me in becoming the best musician I can be. One of the things that has benefited me the most in my time in the music program is being in both band and chorus. In being both a vocalist and instrumentalist I was able to gain skills that could only be gained by one and apply it to the other and vice versa. This helped me substantially in becoming a better, well-rounded musician and will help me exponentially as I continue with my studies in college. My music teachers are the reason I was able to discover the joy and beauty of music, and I hope that one day I can do the same for one of my own students."

Justin Dessureau - *CHS Senior*

“I have been a part of the East Greenbush Music Department since my early years in elementary school. Music became really important to me when I joined chorus in 6th grade. Throughout my time in the music program, I've met some of the greatest people I know, and had some of the greatest experiences of my life. The passionate, patient, and caring instructors of this department have taken the time to help me become the musician I am today. In the fall I plan to attend Schenectady County Community College, majoring in music production; this wouldn't be possible without the skills and experience I've gained from being a part of the amazing music department that East Greenbush has to offer. Chamber singers has even helped me to better my performance with my band outside of school. The time spent everyday working on blending and harmonizing vocally has allowed me to really make our music improve immensely. The East Greenbush Music Department has been an amazing step in my life, and I hope it will continue to help every student that's involved in it better themselves musically, and boost their musical future.”

Caitlin McHugh - CHS Senior

“Although I do not plan on majoring in music in my future, I can honestly say the East Greenbush Music Department has made a world of difference in my life. Between the friendships I have forged and the skills I have harnessed, not only in an academic setting but a social one, I can see the way being apart of such an amazing community has helped shape me into the strong person I am today. No other subject gives you quite the freedom to express yourself and the ability to interact with such a wide array of individuals. It has opened my eyes to ideas and people I would never have had the fortune to learn about or meet, let alone to develop close bonds with, had it not been for this program. I have been heavily involved in the entire school community while at the high school, but I am always left in awe that the music department continues to be one of the leading factors pulling people together. It shows that this spectacular group of people are not only creating beautiful art, but something that can not be quantified. They are developing students abilities to be confident, diligent, and passionate citizens. Not only did this department do an amazing job in fostering my skills inside the school district itself, but it also opened many other doors for me as the years passed. Participating in All County, Suburban Council, NYSSMA, and The Capital District Youth Choral fostered a confidence I would never have found, and had it not been for the supportive East Greenbush Music Department, I would have never been aware of these opportunities. No department in our district has the same determination or ingenuity as the music department. The teachers involved in this program see how meaningful it is to the students and have worked through the years to make the program as strong and educational as possible. I have been surrounded for years by people that share the same passion as me; a passion for performing, a passion for learning, and a passion for music. Being apart of something so impactful for these eight years, I can say I am sad to be leaving but I know I have the skills to succeed in my future. The East Greenbush Music Department has truly has impacted my life in more ways than words can ever describe and I can not wait to see the impact it has on the next generation of students.”

David Sills - *CHS Senior*

When asked to describe the Columbia High School music department, not a single word comes to mind that is not overwhelmingly positive. Despite all of the uncertainty, fear, and stress that occurs in most students' high school experiences, the music department has always been there as a source of comfort, entertainment, and enjoyment. It is by far the most meaningful aspect of my education. Regardless of the stress of AP classes and college applications, playing in Columbia's bands each day for the past four years has been a constant source of joy and stress-relief. Music at CHS has awarded me the opportunity to strengthen a skill that is becoming increasingly obsolete with Common Core standards: independent thought. A band rehearsal is not a fill-in-the-bubble test or a writing-from-sources essay, but rather a journey through history with unlimited opportunities for individual expression. Playing in both symphonic band and jazz band allows me to explore two separate worlds of music each week. It is truly a marvel to be a part of a program where such diverse musical interests are served; the fact that I can be in ensembles playing songs ranging from Sousa marches to Count Basie swing charts in the same day is fantastic. Although I do not intend on being a music major in college, my high school music education has caused me to only consider colleges and universities with strong music programs in which I can participate. Music at Columbia High School is not merely a class, club, or hobby -- it is a necessity.

Parent Testimonials

"Thank you for the beauty you bring into my child's life."

"The energy the kids had, their enthusiasm for the whole concert was awesome! Thanks so much for all you do! It adds so much to the kids' school experience."

"What a wonderful concert last night! Easily the best fall concert I have heard in a few years. Thank you for all the hard work you have put in with my daughter and the rest of the fifth grade!"

"Great job last night! Thank you for all you do to showcase such awesome talent!!!! I really liked the trip to the rain forest!!"

"You bring out the best in your students! Proud to have been your colleague and friend!"

"The a capella pieces were wonderful and very enjoyable to hear!"

"We thoroughly enjoyed last night's pops concert! Awesome job!!"

Parent Testimonials

"Thank you for all you did this year to make band a fun and enjoyable learning experience! It's teachers like you that make the rigors of high school more enjoyable."

"The best thing is seeing how much you and your colleagues care about the students and the progress they are making in the big picture. That is very inspiring."

"The band concert was great this morning. The band students love learning their instruments and it is truly amazing how much they have learned since September. Thank for all your efforts and hard work."

"Thank you so much for getting Billy to be so excited about band. We decided to purchase the trumpet flat out this week because he is really loving it. Thank you again for all you do!"

"What lovely students these are. With all that's going on in the world it is so refreshing to see such great talent. It has renewed my hope in young people." - *member of Hawthorne Ridge*

"It was so nice to see young adults with so much passion about music!" - *member of Hawthorne Ridge*

Music Colleges That EG Music Students Have Attended

Berklee College of Music
College of St. Rose
Eastman School of Music
Hartt School of Music
Hartwick College
Ithaca College
Juilliard Pre-College
Manhattan School of Music
Oberlin Conservatory
SUNY Fredonia
SUNY Potsdam - Crane School of Music
SUNY Purchase



Students with a wide range of learning abilities and socioeconomic backgrounds participate in our programs in grades K-12.

Department Needs Assessment

- FTEs @ Goff (need to have a third band teacher)
- Space concerns @ Goff (orchestra room is not adequate size)
- Need to consider returning to a 9 period day at CHS (lack of time and increasing number of elective options is hurting our program.
- Each teaching space (K-12) should include internet access, a teacher workstation and the ability to project music notation onto a screen. Teachers should also be able to show/listen to musical performances via the internet (i.e. youtube).
- We need an annual review of teacher placement. Music teachers need to be assigned teaching duties in the areas of teaching strength.
- There is a lack of student retention in the band program.
- The Orchestra program has grown. There is a need for more teaching and storage space at Goff.
- Need to write and update the current 4-12 choral curriculum.
- Need to write and update the current K-5 general music curriculum (scope and sequence).
- Need to reassess the FTE allotment in music at the elementary level.