

4th Grade Orchestra Programming Workgroup

Recommendation & Report



11/10/21

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Recommendation

The recommendation and consensus of the Orchestra Workgroup is to begin Orchestra in 5th Grade.

Summary

The Committee was made up of approximately 20 individuals representing parents, K-12 music staff, administration, and the Board of Education. The group established the importance of “Beginning With The End In Mind” by clearly outlining the objectives and necessary result of the committee work.

Objectives: Review Current Challenges, Evaluate Similar School Strategies, Develop Options, Utilize a SWOT Analysis in Evaluation of Options & Develop a Programmatic Recommendation.

Committee Result: Develop programmatic recommendation for 4th Grade Orchestra.

The group reviewed the implications of the Covid-19 Pandemic and other programmatic related decisions that were necessary while creating the district’s Pandemic Response Plan and the impact of the decisions on the 4th Grade Orchestra program.

The challenges the group was tasked with considering while developing a programmatic recommendation included:

Facility Utilization: Student Growth and Special Education Programming needs have required the district to maximize the utilization of available facility space.

- BE Orchestra Room = ASPIRE SPED Programming (High Need Medical)
- RBE Orchestra Room = Elementary Art Room (Elementary Art Room converted to General Classroom. RBE now a 5-section school)

Time: Limited “time slot” availability within the elementary day for the Orchestra teacher(s). Lost instructional time with transitions to elementary buildings.

Schedule: Due to limited “time slots”, pull-out programming around core subjects, encore classes, recess, and multiple buildings makes the creation of an acceptable schedule very difficult.

The group reviewed similar sized school district approaches to Orchestra Programming. In addition, the committee members developed requests for additional information and the requested data / information was then provided once the research was conducted and information compiled.

Significant large group discussion was held on the requested information.

The committee utilized small group work to brainstorm potential programmatic options and a SWOT (Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats) analysis was then utilized to evaluate the options developed.

Each committee member had the opportunity to speak in support or opposition of all the presented program options.

Following the evaluation of each potential option, each individual member of the group identified if the option was a feasible solution. Working through this consensus building process, the workgroup developed a final recommendation.

The consensus of the Orchestra Workgroup and recommendation is to begin Orchestra in 5th Grade.

4th Grade Orchestra Programming Workgroup

Objectives: Review Current Challenges, Evaluate Similar Sized School Strategies, Develop Options, Utilize a SWOT Analysis in Evaluation of Options & Develop a Programmatic Recommendation.

Committee Result: Develop programmatic recommendation for 4th Grade Orchestra.

Meeting Schedule

- 9/23/21 – Committee Meeting @ 3:00 p.m. in the BVHS Community Room
- 10/7/21 – Committee Meeting @ 3:00 p.m. in the BVHS Community Room
- 10/21/21 – Committee Meeting @ 3:00 p.m. in the BVHS Community Room

General Overview of Process

Meeting #1

- Begin with the end in mind
- Review Current Challenges: Facility Space, Staffing, and Scheduling
- Review Similar Sized District Strategies for Elementary Orchestra
- Questions / Information the Group would like answered and gathered

Meeting #2

- Review of Current Challenges
- Review requested information / data
- Brainstorm Potential Options
- Homework - Think the Options through a SWOT Analysis

Meeting #3

- Review of Current Challenges
- Review Potential Options
- Discuss Potential Options through a SWOT Analysis
- Establish group consensus on a recommendation

Meeting Materials

9/23/21 – Agenda & Meeting Materials Enclosed

10/7/21 – Agenda & Meeting Materials Enclosed

1021/21 – Agenda & Meeting Materials Enclosed



BRANDON VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT 49-2

Administration Center

300 South Splitrock Boulevard, Brandon, SD 57005-1652

Dr. Jarod M. Larson, Superintendent
Paul J. Lundberg, Business Manager
Ty Hentschel, Operations Manager

**4th Grade Orchestra Programming Workgroup
Thursday, September 23, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.
Brandon Valley High School Community Room
Meeting #1 – Agenda / Notes**

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Begin With The End In Mind (Objectives & Committee Result)
3. Process Overview (How we will get there)
4. Covid-19 Related Decisions / Items
5. Current Challenges
6. Overview of “Paused” 4th Grade Orchestra Programming
7. Similar Sized School District Elementary Orchestra Strategies
8. Group Requested Information
9. Homework & Next Meeting

OTHER NOTES

Brandon Valley School District #49-2

4th Grade Orchestra Programming Workgroup

Meeting #1

Thursday, September 23, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.

BVHS Community Room

INTRODUCTIONS



Begin With The End In Mind

Committee Result: Develop programmatic recommendation for 4th Grade Orchestra Programming.

Objectives: Review Current Challenges, Evaluate Similar School Strategies, Develop Options, Utilize a SWOT Analysis in Evaluation of Options & Develop a Programmatic Recommendation



4th Grade Orchestra Workgroup Process Overview

- **Meeting #1 - 9/23/21 @ 3:00 p.m.**
 - Process Overview
 - Review Challenges / Paused Approach
 - Review Similar Sized District Strategies
 - Group Requested Information
 - Homework – Brainstorm Potential Options
- **Meeting #2 - 10/7/21 @ 3:00 p.m.**
 - Review Challenges
 - Review Group Requested Information
 - Brainstorm Potential Programming Options
 - Homework – Members apply SWOT Analysis to Options
- **Meeting #3 - 10/21/21 @ 3:00 p.m.**
 - Review Challenges
 - Review & Discuss Potential Options through SWOT Analysis
 - Establish group consensus on a recommendation

Special Notes – Covid-19 & Related Decisions

- 2019-2020 School Year: Moved to Emergency Distance Learning in March.
 - No 3rd Grade Recruitment for Orchestra.
- 2020-2021 School Year: 4th Grade Orchestra placed on pause.
 - No 3rd Grade Recruitment for Orchestra.
- Spring 2021: Decision to schedule Orchestra Staff @ BVIS–BVHS Only.
 - Student Growth Management / High Need Medical SPED Programming
- Summer 2021: Pandemic Response Planning - 4th Grade Orchestra Remains on pause for 2021-2022.
- 2021-2022: Orchestra teacher(s) being utilized grades 5-12.

Current 4th Grade Orchestra Education Program Challenges

- **Facility Utilization:** Student Growth and Special Education Programming needs have required the district to maximize the utilization of available facility space.
 - BE Orchestra Room = ASPIRE SPED Programming (High Need Medical)
 - RBE Orchestra Room = Elementary Art Room (Elementary Art Room converted to General Classroom. RBE now a 5-section school)
- **Time:** Limited “time slot” availability within the elementary day for the Orchestra teacher(s). Lost instructional time with transitions to elementary buildings.
- **Schedule:** Due to limited “time slots”, pull-out programming around core subjects, encore classes, recess, and multiple buildings makes the creation of an acceptable schedule very difficult.

Prior 4th – 6th Grade Orchestra Programming At Brandon Valley

Orchestra is an elective course – student may choose to participate in the orchestra program

2021-2022 school year – 5th elementary opened - Inspiration Elementary

	4 th Orchestra	Intermediate School
Who:	4 th grade students	5 th and 6 th grade students
Staff:	BVIS – Director FAE, VSE, RBE BVMS/BVHS – Director BE	BVIS - Director
Where:	Respective Schools	Intermediate School
When:	2 days per week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 – 45 minute rehearsal • 1 – 20 minute lesson 	3 days per week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 – 40 minute rehearsals • 1 – 20 minute lesson

Similar Sized School District Strategies

School	Orchestra Begins	Comments
Aberdeen	5 th	Elementary Schools are K-5.
Brookings	4 th	Intermediate School is 4 th & 5 th Grade
Harrisburg	No	Do not have at any level.
Huron	4 th	Attendance Centers K-1: Buchanan 2-3: Madison 4-5: Washington
Mitchell	No	Do not have at any level.
Pierre	No	Do not have at any level “school sponsored”.
Sturgis	No	Do not have at any level.
Tea	No	Do not have at any level.
Watertown	5 th	Intermediate School is 5/6. Lessons Only for 5 th .
Yankton	4 th	Elementary Schools are K-5.

Group Requested Information



Next 4th Grade Orchestra Workgroup Meeting

- Homework – Brainstorm Potential Programming Options
- Meeting #2 - 10/7/21 @ 3:00 p.m.
 - Review Challenges
 - Review Group Requested Information
 - Brainstorm Potential Programming Options
 - Homework – Members apply SWOT Analysis to Options



BRANDON VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT 49-2

Administration Center

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Ty Hentschel, Operations Manager

4th Grade Orchestra Programming Workgroup
Thursday, October 7, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.
Brandon Valley High School Community Room
Meeting #2 – Agenda / Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Begin With The End In Mind (Objectives & Committee Result)
3. Process Overview
4. Current Challenges
5. Review / Discuss Group Requested Information
6. Small Group Work
 - a. Share the potential options you “brainstormed” at home.
 - b. Discuss the potential options you “brainstormed” at home.
 - c. Write down each of the potential options your group has.
 - d. Share with the large group the potential programming options.
7. Homework & Next Meeting
 - a. Process & Apply SWOT Analysis to Potential Options
 - b. Meeting #3 - 10/21/21 @ 3:00 p.m.

OTHER NOTES

Orchestra Workgroup Questions

DATA Related Questions

1. What are the current school year (21-22) numbers for Orchestra & Band by grade?

Grade	Orchestra Participant #'s	Band Participant #'s
5	45	167
6	42	95
BVIS TOTALS	87	262
7	27	76
8	30	63
BVMS TOTALS	57	139
9	24	36
10	19	34
11	17	36
12	16	20
BVHS TOTALS	76	126
District TOTALS	220	527

2. Have 5th grade Orchestra numbers dropped due to the previous years starting delay (pause)? What are the current numbers of students in 5th grade Orchestra compared to years ago? Has not having 4th grade Orchestra made a difference in 5th grade numbers? How many 5th grade students started Orchestra in the Fall of 2021 compared to previous years?

SCHOOL YEAR	5 th Grade Orchestra Numbers
2021-2022	45
2000-2021	40 * Students had access to 4 th Grade Orchestra
2019-2020	52 * Students had access to 4 th Grade Orchestra
2018-2019	53 * Students had access to 4 th Grade Orchestra
2017-2018	53 * Students had access to 4 th Grade Orchestra
2016-2017	35 * Students had access to 4 th Grade Orchestra
2015-2016	51 * Students had access to 4 th Grade Orchestra

3. How many 5th grade students have dropped Orchestra during the Fall of 2021 and how does it compare to previous years.

Year	Number of 5 th Grade Students Starting in Fall	Number of 5 th Grade Students Dropping	Final Number of Participants
2021-2022	50	5	45
2020-2021	65	25	40
2020-2019	80	28	52
2019-2018	78	25	53
2017-2018	75	22	53
2016-2017	43	8	35
2015-2016	72	21	51

4. Historically, how many 4th Grade Orchestra Participants continue – What’s the retention rate?

Utilizing mean data – Averaging 70 4th Grade Orchestra Participants & Averaging 47 5th Grade BVIS Orchestra Participants = 67% Retention rate for 4th Grade Orchestra Participants

5. How many current 5th grades are enrolled in both Orchestra and Band? How are these numbers different from years past?

School Year	# Of 5 th Graders in both Orchestra & Band
2021-2022 (Current Year)	16
2020-2021	14
2019-2020	8
2018-2019	16
2017-2018	11
2016-2017	14
2015-2016	19

6. Has the pause affected any other music ensembles (Did fewer kids sign up for Band)?

The pause has not affected Band Numbers for 2021-2022. However, it is relevant to note that the “Covid Year of 2020-2021 did decrease the number of band participants.

7. Do we have Orchestra enrollment numbers at schools who start Orchestra in 5th Grade?

Aberdeen reports approximately 60. Watertown reports approximately 45.

8. What is the current student / staff ratio in Band and in Orchestra?

Activity	# of Students	# of Staff	Ratio
Orchestra	220	2	110 : 1
Band	527	4	132 : 1

9. How many parents in our district want/expect Orchestra in 4th grade?

There have been 15 elementary parent inquiries / requests made for 4th grade Orchestra since the pause to building administration.

10. How many current 5th grades are enrolled in both Orchestra and Band?

Activity	5 th Grade	6 th Grade
Both Band & Orchestra	16	15
Orchestra Only	29	27
Band Only	79	80

****Historical BVIS Orchestra / Band Enrollment - # Dropped – Total Participants enclosed on the next page.****

PROGRAMMING Related Questions

11. What string curriculum do all 4th grade students get – Is there a strings component?

Instrument information and introduction only at 4th Grade. Ukulele is introduced at 5th Grade.

12. How many Orchestra teachers do we have?

Two. Emily Antonen (BVIS / Elementary) and Shelly Berg (BVMS & BVHS / Elementary)

13. Promotion of value of program – How will this be given value and promoted?

At the Elementary / Intermediate School Level, Fine Arts are the only “extra duty pay” in the budget. The promotion of the program for 2021-2022 has been consistent for the introduction of Band and Orchestra at BVIS – Principal Skibsted may provide specific details on how the programs are promoted.

14. Will outside instruction from other sources be an offering (SD Symphony/other performing arts)?

Program / Instructor determined. If costs associated, building-level budget approval would be required prior to utilization.

15. Should we limit students to one instrument at grades 5-6?

Altering program offerings is an option for the group. Note – Individual student ability to manage two instruments is situational for each individual student.

16. Are any High School Orchestra students in Symphonic Band?

Twelve (12) High School students are enrolled in Band and Orchestra at BVHS.

17. Fall of 2015 – Incoming 4th Graders were all required to start on violin only (no other instruments were offered). How did this affect the String Program for current Sophomores?

There are 19 sophomores currently enrolled in Orchestra. In terms of “preparedness” – Orchestra Instructors would provide appropriate feedback.

18. Lesson Structure Options: Beyond the regular school day? Private?

Altering the Structure of the program is an option for the group.

19. What strategy do other district's use to offer Orchestra lessons to beginners?

Reported by Watertown – 5th Grade is Lessons Only for beginners.

20. Would beginning Orchestra in 5th grade and Band in 6th grade be beneficial for both programs?

Opinions likely vary - Music Department Staff insight is necessary.

21. Will students have an ability to provide input (upper levels)?

Possible – We could develop a method to gain insight from BVHS students that have participated in Orchestra within the district between 4th Grade and 12th Grade.

22. What kind of funding/supports will be in place to ensure that quality of instruction is not diminished?

At the Elementary / Intermediate School Level Fine Arts are the only “extra duty pay” dedicated within the school district budget. Regarding quality of instruction, administration will continue to utilize the evaluation

process to provide feedback and strategies for professional growth and improvement in the area of instruction.

23. How many students would choose both band and orchestra if available?

The question is unable to be answered. Based on data available, it appears more students elect to participate in Band than Orchestra. In 20-21 16 students and in 21-22 14 students did both Orchestra and Band.

24. How will equity between musical offerings be addressed?

The process we are engaged in shall consider equity in offerings. Currently, offerings begin at different grades.

BVSD TEACHERS BY Music Content

2 Orchestra

4 Band

1.5 Chorus

3.75 General Music JK-5

25. Some buildings started the year with lessons and whole group, others only did lessons – Could 4th grade do lessons only to help with time challenges?

Altering program structure is an option for the group.

26. Could 4th Grade Orchestra be lesson-based rather than full ensembles OR full group focused on the fundamental skills?

Altering program structure is an option for the group.

SCHEDULE Related Questions

- 27. Orchestra schedules for BVIS Director & BVMS/BVHS Director? Scheduling is tight at the elementary – 4th grade has 9 encore times to fit in a week. What availability is there for 4th grade Orchestra with the BVIS/BVMS/BVHS schedule?**

See Attached.

- 28. Is there an opportunity to hire another Orchestra Teacher? Part-time staff?**

The allocation of available resources for staffing is done on a priority basis. There are obviously challenges associated with varying views on priorities. In addition to the evaluation of additional staff, repurposing staff and scope / sequence of general music is a strategy to increase staff instruction for string instrument instruction.

FACILITY / OPERATIONAL Related Questions

- 29. Transportation? Student and family accessibility to the Fine Arts?**

District transportation services continually are challenged by demand and capacity. Additional requests for transportation to serve a specialized elementary programming would be very difficult to meet.

- 30. Are there other spaces (rooms) to hold lessons in the Elementary Buildings?**

Availability of “other spaces / rooms”, is completely dependent upon the time of day.

Brandon Valley School District #49-2

4th Grade Orchestra Programming Workgroup

Meeting #2

Thursday, October 7, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.

BVHS Community Room

Begin With The End In Mind

Objectives: Review Current Challenges, Evaluate Similar School Strategies, Develop Options, Utilize a SWOT Analysis in Evaluation of Options & Develop a Programmatic Recommendation

Committee Result: Develop programmatic recommendation for 4th Grade Orchestra.



Process Overview 4th Grade Orchestra Workgroup

- Meeting #1 - 9/23/21 @ 3:00 p.m.
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 - Review Similar Sized District Strategies
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 - Review & Discuss Potential Options through SWOT Analysis
 - Establish group consensus on a recommendation

Current 4th Grade Orchestra Education Program Challenges

- **Facility Utilization:** Student Growth and Special Education Programming needs have required the district to maximize the utilization of available facility space.
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Group Requested Information



Small Group – Work (Groups of 3 or 4)

4th Grade Orchestra - Programming Options

- Share the potential options you “brainstormed” at home.
- Discuss the potential options you “brainstormed” at home.
- Write down each of the potential options your group has.
- Share with the large group the potential programming options.

Potential Programming Options



Next 4th Grade Orchestra Workgroup Meeting

- Homework – Members apply SWOT Analysis to Options
- Meeting #3 - 10/21/21 @ 3:00 p.m.
 - Review Challenges
 - Review & Discuss Potential Options through SWOT Analysis
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4th Grade Orchestra Programming Workgroup
Thursday, October 21, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.
Brandon Valley High School Community Room
Meeting #3 – Agenda / Notes

1. Welcome
2. Begin With The End In Mind (Objectives & Committee Result)
3. Process Overview
4. Current Challenges
5. Pair / Share - Large Group SWOT Discussion & Consensus Development
6. Final Group Consensus
7. Thank You – Final Report Process

OTHER NOTES

Brandon Valley School District #49-2

4th Grade Orchestra Programming Workgroup

Meeting #3

Thursday, October 21, 2021 @ 3:00 p.m.

BVHS Community Room

Begin With The End In Mind

Objectives: Review Current Challenges, Evaluate Similar School Strategies, Develop Options, Utilize a SWOT Analysis in Evaluation of Options & Develop a Programmatic Recommendation

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Current 4th Grade Orchestra Education Program Challenges

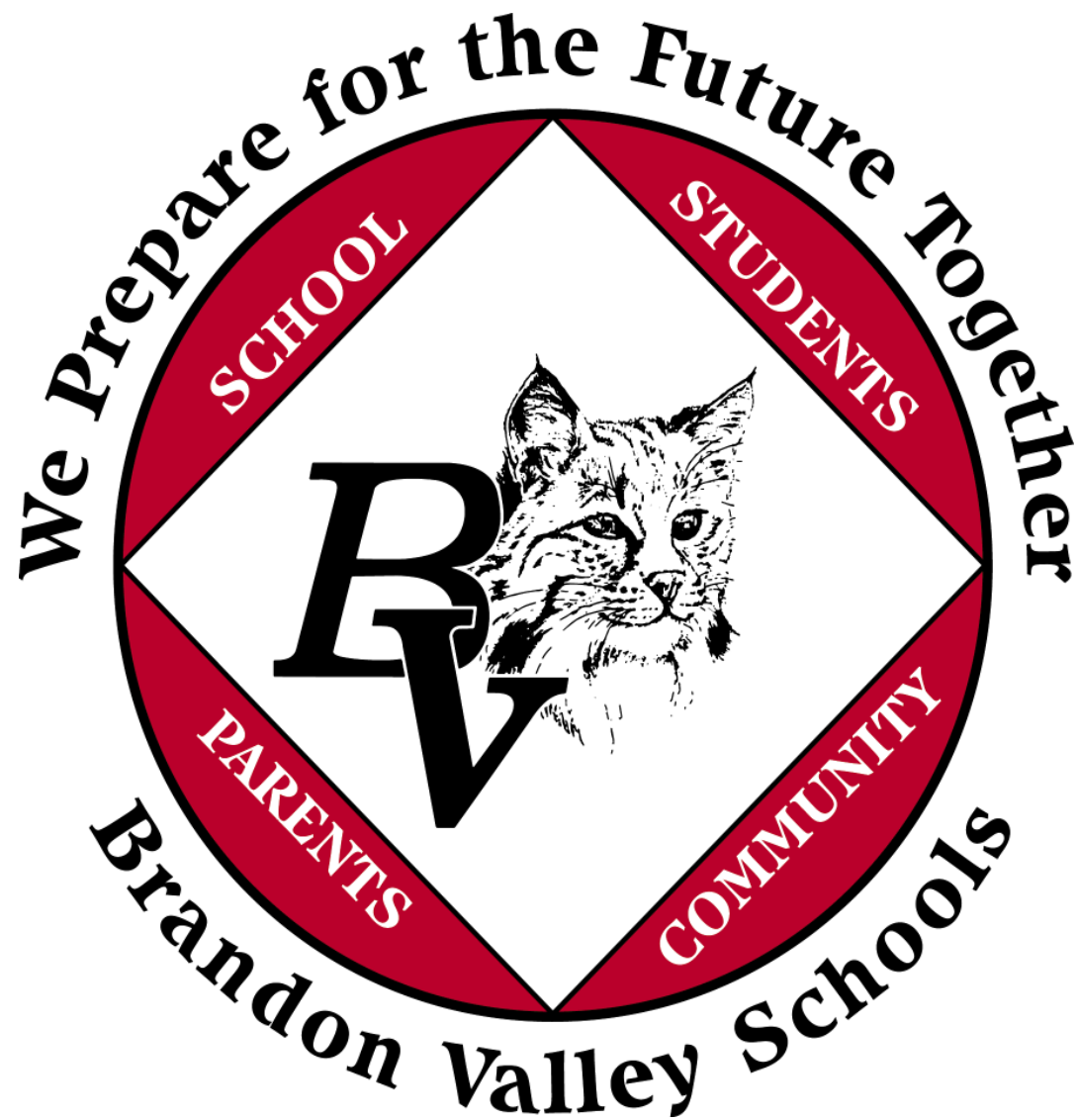
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Pair Share – Work (Groups of 2)

SWOT ANALYSIS

4th Grade Orchestra Programming Options

- Write down your SWOT ANALYSIS.
- Share your SWOT ANALYSIS within your Pair.
- Discuss which Option(s) you support and why.
- Prepare to individually share with the Large Group.



- Final Report
- Thank You!!