

Good Morning,

How does a district that takes pride in fostering the Mind, Body and Heart of it's students and staff think about eliminating Elementary Music Positions? How are we to "reimagine" what that looks like when it is so vital to the mind, body and heart of our students, our community and our nation?

I have been teaching art for a very long time. It is a lonely occupation as it is not deemed important until there is a contest or an exhibit needed. Our budgets are cut and we are expected to produce. Our positions get cut but the expectations are the same, we work magic every day. My daughter asked me, "How do you do it mom?", so much bad press out there. I told her I hold on to the good I know I'm doing for my students. I know I'm helping their mental health even if I do it quietly, while no one is watching. I know it's important.

The thought of eliminating the introduction to instrumental music on the elementary level would cause a ripple effect that would last longer than one fiscal year. Let's face it, we're not dumb, once it's gone, it's not coming back. Then we'll be asked to rally, which we always do, and what will be cut next?

Those elementary band kids catch the bug and it stays with them through middle and high school. You need the hook when they are young and impressionable, not teens who want to be cool. Those band kids grow to have a higher graduation rate and many of them use their skills to acquire scholarships for higher education.

In a district that struggles with attendance and graduation rates can we afford to not support those kids before they even start? NO!

I implore you all to look to other areas that can be trimmed, support the arts, save instrumental music!

*Have a great day!*

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