Dear Principals and Teachers,

Welcome to March as Music in Our Schools Month, traditionally a time when local, state and national music education enthusiasts ramp up advocacy efforts, timed in part to bring critical attention to the value of music education as policymakers turn to the difficult task of budgetary decision-making.

We are indeed fortunate that music education is thriving in Metro Nashville Public Schools at a time when many programs throughout the country are struggling. We attribute this to the visionary leadership of Mayor Karl Dean, a supportive administration led by Director of Schools Jesse Register, Chief Academic Officer Jay Steele and 144 principals, and a music community that has demonstrated its commitment financially and through transformational partnerships.

As you can see with our new logo and its image of rolling sound waves that reflect a changing landscape, Music Makes Us is making waves. Not only in the month of March, but every day, in every school, with every student.

Best wishes,

Laurie T. Schell
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Metro Nashville Public Schools

Paragon Mills Teacher Barb Laifer and students with Kelly Corcoran Associate Conductor of the Nashville Symphony.
CMA/Keep the Music Playing Provides $1.2 Million for Instruments

In a pre-concert reception at the 4th Annual All-Stars Concert, Country Music Association CEO Steve Moore, Chairman of the Board Troy Tomlinson and President Ed Hardy announced a breathtaking $1.2 million gift to support music education in Metro Schools. In 2006, the CMA Artist Relations Committee established the Keep the Music Playing program to give back to the community on behalf of the hundreds of artists who perform and make appearances at CMA Music Festival each year for free. Not including this gift, CMA has contributed more than $5.3 million to Metro Nashville Public Schools that was used to purchase more than 5,700 instruments and equipment for all 144 Metro Schools.

Mr. Moore also announced CMA’s partnership with Chevrolet, who will donate a Chevy Traverse to Metro Schools, to help with transporting instruments between the schools and the newly established instrument repair shop.

Nashville Symphony Instrument Loan Program
The Nashville Symphony recently launched an Instrument Loan Program with a grant from the Predators Foundation and an in-kind instrument donation from KHS-America. More than 30 instruments will be distributed under the guidance of Music Makes Us, with an initial focus on middle schools. McKissack Middle School Pep Band was featured at the kick-off event on February 21. GNASH, the Predators mascot, joined the Pep Band, playing tuba with the band students. Predators Defenseman Ryan Ellis spoke to the students and representatives from KHS-America, the Predators Foundation & the Nashville Symphony presented new instruments to the school.
Music Makes Us Update

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR PRINCIPALS — Music Teacher Vacancies in 2013-14

In the coming weeks, we will be working with the Human Capital Department to develop updated job descriptions for music-related positions and will be screening applicants to ensure a qualified applicant pool. Principals, if you are aware of the need for a music specialist, or if you know of candidates you might wish to consider, please contact Dr. Nola Jones, Coordinator of Music. It is our intention to provide a pool of qualified candidates for your consideration for each position you are seeking to fill.

New Teacher Advisory Council

We are pleased to announce the inaugural Music Makes Us Teacher Advisory Council. The purpose of the Council is to advance the goals of the initiative through both strategic and tactical efforts, specifically including guiding the development of the goal of Transforming Teaching and Learning. In the first meeting on February 18, the group adopted a governance framework, brainstormed priority discussion items for future meetings, and discussed professional development needs. The group will meet quarterly, with one additional meeting being scheduled for the current school year.

Members of the council are:

- Walter Bitner, Choral Director, Nashville School of the Arts
- Rita Black, Music Teacher, Eakin Elementary
- Debbie Burton, Director of Bands, Overton High
- Laura Gabriel, Piano Instructor, Nashville School of the Arts
- Anna Maria Miller, Strings Instructor, Croft Middle
- Scott Miller, Director of Bands, Antioch High
- Jerry Rains, Rock Band/Guitar Instructor, Glencliff High
- Nita Smith, Choral Director, IT Creswell
- Debra Tillery, Music Teacher, Glenview Elementary
- Susan Waters, Director of Bands, Oliver Middle

Little Kids Rock teachers having fun at their jam session.
Students Take Center Stage

All-Stars Concert A Dazzling Success

Congratulations again to the student ensembles, their directors, and to our host the Country Music Association, for an inspiring night of music at Schermerhorn Symphony Center!

Participating schools were:

- Sylvan Park Elementary
- Oliver Middle School Wind Ensemble
- Meigs Academic Magnet Wind Ensemble
- Croft Middle Design Center Advanced Orchestra
- Antioch High School Wind Ensemble
- Nashville School of the Arts Festival Choir

Hume-Fogg Jazz Band Takes Honors

Under the direction of Dr. Richard Ripani, Hume-Fogg Jazz Band students took part in the University of Louisville Jazz Festival. This yearly event features high school and college jazz bands from the midwestern and southern states. The performances are adjudicated by jazz professionals and college jazz instructors, with the top performing band of each day’s activities invited to play on the evening concert with professional world-class jazz musicians who are the featured guest artists.

The Hume-Fogg Jazz Convoy was selected as the top-performing group on February 22, and performed on the evening concert with the University of Louisville faculty and the Amina Figarova Sextet. On February 23rd, the Hume-Fogg Silver Jazz band was selected as the honor group, and performed on the evening concert with The University of Louisville students jazz band I and guest artists Joe Magnarelli and Dick Oatts.

McGavock Sophomore to Perform National Anthem

Jonathan Earl, 16-year-old sophomore at McGavock High School, has been selected to play the National Anthem at the 2013 Boys’ State Basketball Tournament on March 16, to be held at MTSU in Murfreesboro. Jon plays alto and tenor saxophone. He has garnered a list of remarkable achievements, including 1st chair tenor saxophone in the Mid State Gold Band, TMEA All-State Band 1st chair tenor saxophone from Middle Tennessee, Mid State 1st chair alto saxophone Jazz Silver Band, Field Commander and saxophone soloist for McGavock Marching Band, 1st chair alto saxophone McGavock Wind Ensemble. Jon also participates in Woodwind Choir and Jazz Band. His music teachers are Jeff Beckman, David Hazlett, and Jacob Campos.
Students Take Center Stage (Continued)

Antioch Hosts Choral Festival Preparation Clinic
Kimberly McLemore, choral teacher at Antioch High School, hosted a clinic for the high school choirs of Hunter’s Lane, under the direction of Chuck Brown, and East High School, under the direction of Angela Hahn. The choirs performed for each other, and the three directors shared clinician duties to provide helpful critiques in preparation for the Middle Tennessee Vocal Association Choral Festival. Thank you to Principal Adrienne Battle-Koger for her support of the event.

McGavock Show Choirs Garner Awards
Under the direction of Mitch Fuller, McGavock High School’s Capital Sounds and McGavock Ladies competed at the Music City Show Shoppe, presented by Company 13 at Belmont University. A show choir is a musical ensemble that encompasses the full art of entertainment. While vocal production is the central focus, performers integrate staging, choreography, and costumes. In a competition, groups perform in a preliminary round, and the top five groups perform again in finals. McGavock Ladies received 1st runner up in the treble division. DuValle Henry of Capital Sounds was awarded best male solo within a show and Alyssa Banouvong best female solo within a show. Capital Sounds scored high enough to compete in finals and was awarded 1st runner up.

Nashville School of the Arts Madrigal Singers Perform with The Chieftains & The Nashville Symphony
The Madrigal Singers, an advanced a cappella choir from Nashville School of the Arts, joined the internationally famous traditional Irish band The Chieftains and The Nashville Symphony at The Schermerhorn Symphony Center. The Madrigal Singers were one of three local ensembles, along with Tennessee Scots Pipe Band and Nashville Irish Step Dancers joining The Chieftains for these “extravaganza” performances with the symphony on the Nashville leg of their 50th Anniversary World Tour.

The Madrigal Singers, under the direction of Walter Bitner, are the most advanced choir in the NSA Choral Program and regularly represent NSA and Metro Schools at events throughout the city. With a repertoire that spans five centuries of primarily a cappella music and a reputation for musical excellence, the Madrigal Singers are one of the most sought-after high school choirs in Middle Tennessee.

High School Pre-Concert Performance Festival
Congratulations to all the bands who participated in the inaugural pre-concert festival, hosted at Cane Ridge High School on February 25-26. Seventeen ensembles from twelve of our high schools performed over the two-day event. Adjudicators evaluated the performances, offering feedback on what we are doing well and how we can approve. After the concerts, each ensemble participated in a thirty minute clinic with one of the adjudicators. Thanks and appreciation to Chris Wilson, band director at Cane Ridge HS, for his leadership in organizing the event and Principal Michel Wall for her support and encouragement.
Teaching and Learning Practice

Featured in a recent ASCD SmartBrief Special Report on creativity in the classroom, these two articles related to creativity and the arts caught our eye:

**Creativity Requires Yin and Yang**
Creativity can't be measured by standardized tests, but it's a quality increasingly sought after in the global marketplace, write Bryan Goodwin and Kirsten Miller. Teachers can help students bring out this quality through the teaching and modeling of complex problem-solving. "Creativity requires bouncing an idea back and forth between left- and right-brain thinking; stepping back to analyze what we've created, and if necessary, tearing it up," they write. Click [here](#) to see the article.

**Art's Interactions with Science Can Be Profound**
An aptitude in science can be enhanced by participation in arts and crafts, write Robert and Michele Root-Bernstein. As an example, Albert Einstein played violin and piano, and attributed some of his gifts for science to "musical thinking," they write. "Arts and crafts develop such skills as observation, visual thinking, the ability to recognize and form patterns, and manipulative ability. They develop habits of thought and action that include practicing, persevering, and trial-and-error problem solving," they write. Link to the article [here](#).

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**Using Differentiated Learning with Exceptional Needs Students**
Pennsylvania Music Educators’ Special Needs Chair, Jeffrey Cooper, B.S. Mu. Ed, M.A. Psy, recently wrote an article entitled, *Assessment of Students with Special Needs in Your Music Classroom*. Included are examples of differentiated learning objectives that you may find helpful. *(If you have difficulty opening the link, try using Microsoft Internet Explorer as the browser.)*

**New College Board Study On Common Core and Arts Standards Alignment**
The College Board and the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards (NCCAS) have released a new research report detailing the alignment between the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math and the forthcoming National Core Arts Standards.

The Arts and the Common Core: A Review of Connections Between the Common Core State Standards and the National Core Arts Standards Conceptual Framework analyzes parallels between the ELA and Math standards and the foundations of artistic literacy outlined in the *National Core Arts Standards: A Conceptual Framework for Arts Learning*. You can access the new report [here](#) on the NCCAS web page.
Do It Now Opportunities

Orff Certifications Offered
Music Makes Us is pleased to continue to provide support for a select number of elementary music specialists who wish to become Orff certified. Classes are offered this summer at Belmont University in Orff I and Orff III. The dates are June 10—21. If you are interested, a brief application will be required. Please contact Valerie Harbin for more information. The tuition for each course is $810. Selected applicants will be responsible for paying the $50 registration fee. The district will pay the remaining cost of tuition. Pre-registration ends May 15, 2013. For more information, click here.

Reminder: Applications Open for Grammys Music Educator Award
In recognition of the significant role of teachers in shaping their students' musical experiences, the GRAMMY Foundation and The Recording Academy are partnering to present the first Music Educator Award. Open to current U.S. music teachers kindergarten through college, the Music Educator Award will be awarded annually starting in 2014 during GRAMMY Week and will include a cash honoraria of up to $10,000. To apply or nominate a teacher, visit here. Deadline for submissions is April 15.

Applications Available for Teaching Guitar Workshops
Teaching Guitar Workshops teaches school music educators to start or enhance a classroom guitar program. The program is a joint effort of NAfME and GAMA (www.discoverguitar.com), a guitar industry trade association. School music teachers who attend the Workshops receive 3 graduate credits, a guitar and instructional materials, and 5 days of professional development with award-winning clinicians. The Workshops are held at Belmont University from July 8 - 12. The fee is $350 before April 1, $385 thereafter. To apply, go here.

Registration Open for Logan Arts Leadership Institute
The Logan Arts Leadership Institute (LALI) at Interlochen Center for the Arts is now open for registration! LALI is a free virtual program designed to promote arts leadership among high school and undergraduate students to help them understand the kinds of experiences and study required for new leaders in the arts. Because the dispositions for leadership are formed at an early age, LALI strives to create a cadre of new leaders who will understand and want to play significant leadership roles in arts and culture, education, and non-profit organizations. For more information and to apply, please visit here.