

MUSIC MAKES US

METRO NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WELCOME

Dear Music Colleagues and MNPS Principals,

Welcome to the first edition of the Music Makes Us monthly e-newsletter. We are pleased to share opportunities for professional development, funding, student festivals and awards; resources on teaching and learning practice; announcements of general interest; and updates on the Music Makes Us initiative.

Music Makes Us promotes, supports and advances student engagement and achievement through robust, high quality music education with both a traditional music curriculum as well as a contemporary curriculum track that uses new technologies and reflects a diverse musical landscape. A public/private partnership among Metro Nashville Public Schools, Nashville Mayor Karl Dean, and music industry and community leaders in Nashville, Music Makes Us is committed to becoming a worldwide leader in music education, bringing the resources of the Nashville music community together to enable participation and foster student success for all of its 81,000 students.

We hope you will find the e-newsletter informative, timely and useful and welcome your feedback and suggestions. Please feel free to forward the newsletter to your colleagues.

Sincerely,

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OCTOBER, 2012

Upcoming October Performances:

- * October 4th—4th grade choir performance at 6:00 at Dodson Elementary PTO meeting
- * October 18th—4th grade choir performance at Westmeade Elementary
- * October 27th—Nashville Sings, Cumberland Park 10:00 a.m.
- * October 27th—Mariachi students to perform at Glenciff Fall Festival at 11:00 a.m.

Please email your event information to [Valerie Harbin](mailto:Valerie.Harbin) to be included in future newsletters.

KEEP THE MUSIC PLAYING UPDATE

Through a generous donation from the Country Music Association Foundation, almost \$1.2 million in new instruments have been purchased and distributed to the Metro Schools' music programs. Scanners have also been purchased for every middle and

high school, so as to better inventory and track these valuable instruments.

This year will also mark the launch of a new MNPS instrument repair facility, located in the Old Hickman Elementary site, also supported

by *Keep the Music Playing*. Harley Tatarsky, owner of Harleys Repairs and longtime contractor with MNPS, is the new full-time repair technician. The shop is scheduled to open early December.

TEACHING AND LEARNING PRACTICE

Effective Questioning as excerpted from Michael Pohl's *Learning to Think, Thinking to Learn*:

Questions for Remembering:

- * What happened after...?
- * How many...?
- * Who was it that...?
- * Name the...?
- * Find the definition of...?
- * Describe what happened after...?
- * Which is true or false...?

Questions for Understanding:

- * Can you explain why...?
- * Can you write in your own words?
- * How would you explain...?
- * Who do you think...?
- * Can you clarify...?

Questions for Applying:

- * Do you know of another instance where...?
- * Which factors would you change if...?
- * From the information given, can you develop a set of instructions about...?

Questions for Analyzing:

- * How is...similar to...?
- * Why did...changes occur?
- * If...happened, what might the outcome have been?
- * Can you explain what must have happened when...?
- * What are some of the problems of...?
- * What was the turning point?
- * What was the problem with...?

Questions for evaluating:

- * Is there a better solution to...?
- * Judge the value of...?
- * Do you think... is a good thing or a bad thing?
- * What changes to...would you recommend?
- * Do you believe...?
- * How would you feel if...?
- * How effective are...?
- * What are the pros and cons of...?
- * Why is...of value/

Questions for Creating:

- * Can you design a...to...?
- * Can you see a possible solution to...?
- * What would happen if...?
- * How many ways can you...?
- * Can you develop a proposal which would...?

"DO IT NOW" OPPORTUNITIES (Anything with a deadline)

The GRAMMY Foundation

The GRAMMY Foundation® is currently accepting applications for its 2013 GRAMMY Camp®, GRAMMY Camp — Jazz Session, and GRAMMY Signature Schools programs for high school students and high school music programs. Selected Signature Schools will receive \$1,000 to \$10,000 in cash grants for their music department. The applications have been simplified and awards are available for top music programs as well as under-funded music programs. Visit their [website](#) to apply before the **October 22** deadline.

Learning & Leadership Grants

The National Education Association Foundation's Learning & Leadership grants support professional development for public school teachers. Grant funds of up to \$5000 may be used for fees, travel expenses, books or other materials. All professional development must improve practice, curriculum and student achievement. The deadline is **October 15, 2012**. Click [here](#) for more information.

Student Achievement Grants

The National Education Association Foundation provides grants to improve the academic achievement of students in U.S. public schools. The proposed work should engage students in critical thinking and problem solving that deepens their knowledge of standards-based subject matter. Proposals for work resulting in low-income and minority student success with honors, advanced placement, or other challenging curricula are encouraged. The deadline is **October 15, 2012**. Click [here](#) for more information.

Nashville Blues Society Youth Award

The Nashville Blues Society will hold its 2nd annual Nashville Blues Challenge the week of November 12, 2012 at World Music Nashville. The competition is open to any eligible local blues band or solo/duo act within our membership and region. New this year, we have a separate Youth category. Young artists up to 20 years of age are eligible to compete in this category. The deadline is **October 20th**. Visit the Nashville Blues Society's [website](#) for more information.

Choristers Guild Director's Workshop

The Guild offers a workshop on Saturday, October 6, "Inclusion In the Choir: Everyone's Song" - a panel-led discussion and brainstorming of issues around inclusion of children with disabilities or special needs, in the choir or in a music classroom setting. Panelists include Dr. Alexandra Da Fonte and Dr. Andrea Capizzi, professors of Special Education at Vanderbilt; and Lisa Hay, veteran public school music educator. For more information, email [Amy Cooper](#) or via telephone at 615-504-8453. For more information, click [here](#).

Middle TN School Band and Orchestra Assoc.

October 4: Board/Membership meeting, registration deadline for Solo Performance Assessment, deadline to join with late penalty

November 1: Board/Membership meeting, registration deadline for All Mid-State auditions

Middle TN Vocal Association

October 19: Deadline for elementary and middle school honors auditions

November 8: Freshman Honors/Mid-State Event @ Christ Church Nashville Elementary/Middle School Honors Auditions @ Sycamore Middle School Board/Membership Meeting

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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*Don't Forget...
Inventory Dates:*

High Schools

September 17th – October 5th

Middle Schools

October 15th – November 2nd

Elementary Schools

October 29th – November 16th

If you need assistance with Filemaker Pro, please email [Andy Aylor](mailto:Andy.Aylor).

MUSIC MAKES US UPDATES

Current activities:

In 2012-13, 22 contemporary music classes are being launched in world percussion, country/bluegrass, guitar/rock band, mariachi, songwriting, and hip hop in seven middle and six high schools in MNPS.

A new Music Makes Us Advisory Council met in September. The members, jointly appointed by Mayor Dean and Dr. Register, represent a broad cross-section of music industry, K-12 education, philanthropic, higher education, and community stakeholders.

SmartMusic, an interactive music software that provides an ideal practice environment for students and enables greater opportunities for student assessment for teachers, has been purchased for all high schools. The program will be expanded to middle schools in 2013-14.

The band programs have been restored in 3 middle schools (John Early, Litton, and Joelton). All public middle schools in MNPS now have band programs.

New standards-based textbooks have been purchased for all music subjects, including band, orchestra, K-4 general music, guitar, piano, theory, choir.

Anticipation is building for the soon-to-be-named student record label at Pearl-Cohn Entertainment Magnet High School. Acclaimed acoustic engineer Steven Durr and members of the Producers and Engineers Wing of The Recording Academy have been instrumental in guiding the design for the new recording studio. Launch date January 2013.



HAVE A TOPIC YOU WOULD LIKE COVERED IN A FUTURE NEWSLETTER? [EMAIL](#) US YOUR IDEAS.