

Board Development Topic: Fast Facts on Band in GSSD

Date of Board Meeting:

June 13, 2024

Strategic Priority:

- High Quality Teaching and Learning
- Engagement of All Students, Families, and Communities
- Effective Policy and Procedures
- Healthy, Sustainable Physical & Social Environments

Quality Indicator(s):

QI 1.1 Facilitating environments where students feel a sense of belonging and have high levels of intellectual engagement.

QI 7.2 Keeping the Board informed about Division operations, challenges, and celebrations.

Presented by:

Kristen Myers, Superintendent of Schools

Information for the Board (10 fast facts):

1. Band is offered in 21 schools in GSSD in Grades 5-12. Approximately 1300 students participated in the band program in the 2023-24 school year. These students are instructed by eight band teachers who all have specialized training and hold bachelor's degrees in music.
2. In Grades 5-9, band is considered a locally determined option. Instruction is guided by the arts education curriculum (music strand) and a ministry band support document. Students must play one or more instruments to meet all outcomes in the arts education curriculum, and band provides an opportunity to do this.
3. In Yorkton and area, band is optional at all grade levels. In other schools, band is required for all students at the Grades 5 and 6 level only, except for MAC, GRA, CPS, and LCS where band is required up to Grade 9.
4. Students in high school can earn credits in Band 10, 20, and 30. These credits fulfill the graduation requirement of two or more PAA or arts education courses. In Yorkton and Melville, students also have the option of taking Instrumental Jazz 10/20/30 and/or Choral 10/20/30 for credit.
5. Band students in GSSD participate in a number of concerts, festivals and workshops throughout the year. These may include "head start" clinics for beginners, school concerts, school tours, Regina Optimist Festival, Brandon Jazz Festival, Moose Jaw Band and Choral Festival, Musicfest Canada (nationals), and other opportunities such as festivals and university workshops in Alberta, BC, Manitoba, and the US.
6. All band programs in GSSD have a band parents group that meet regularly to support the programs with co-curricular aspects such as uniforms and fundraising.

7. This year GSSD completed a centralized band furniture and equipment audit and refresh. All large equipment was inventoried, assessed, and repaired. In addition, new percussion equipment, chairs, and music stands were purchased for several schools to ensure that every school meets a minimum standard in order to teach the curriculum.
8. Band music (or “repertoire”) is levelled using a scale of Grade 1-6. Typically, by the end of the first year of instruction, bands play music at a Grade 0.5 level (six notes and basic rhythms.) In GSSD, our high school bands are playing at approximately a Grade 3 level. When attending band festivals, there are levelled classes to enter with required repertoire at each level. Grade 5 and 6 level repertoire would typically be reserved for university and professional bands, and only a handful of high schools in Canada.
9. Band programs in Saskatchewan are supported by organizations such as the Saskatchewan Band Association, the Canadian Band Association, and the Saskatchewan Music Educators Association.
10. There are numerous opportunities for students to be involved in band outside of school, such as summer band camps, honour bands, and community bands. Participation in music can provide students with a sense of belonging and has been shown to have many lifelong benefits.

Respectfully submitted,

Quintin M. Robertson, Director/CEO
Good Spirit School Division