

PAPA

Parents Advocating for Performing Arts

PAPA is an advocacy group centered on music education in the schools. With music being reduced in schools more and more there is an increased concern for music education and an outcry from the parents to satisfy their student's musical needs. PAPA is a group dedicated to continuing to provide their students with the benefits of a musical education.

PAPA unites with the stakeholders in the following capacities –

Students	Students benefit from an education that includes music. It allows them to explore basic skills in math, writing, and expressiveness all in one element. Music stimulates both sides of the brain and reaches students at every educational level. Student's can benefit from a break in their educational day that involves music since music can keep the structure needed in a school day yet simultaneously provide a much needed mental break.
Parents	Parents are needed at this delicate time in the economy to help provide extra support for music education. Not only by advocating for music to be kept in schools but also helping facilitate music in schools. Volunteer hours are needed to carry out all of the music outreach we hope to accomplish. Connections to community members, encouraging families to attend concerts, and exploring music as a study tool, an insight to emotions, and even a stress release can all benefit a student's education.
Administration	The administration of a school is key in music advocacy. They can be involved by allowing schedules to fluctuate and providing time monthly to involve assemblies to explore music as a school, allowing the community to come into the school, and advocating at a district level for music to remain in education.
The School District	The school district can help support music education in schools by keeping the funding present and lobbying at a state wide and national level for music education for students. We recognize that their jobs are very difficult and PAPA only stands to partner with them and provide them the information that they need to make an informed decision.
Community Support/Business Involvement	The community is hands down the most integral part of what PAPA hopes to accomplish. By partnering with the schools and coming into the schools to share their knowledge and traditions we can only hope to enrich the lives of our students. Almost every culture in the world has an appreciation for music, it is the universal language and by using that to communicate we can reach students on every single level of education. By funding instruments for a school, or simply rhythm sticks and buckets they can help provide music education. As a school we rely on the community to support our needs where we have them, this is certainly the biggest partnership for PAPA.
Religious/Spiritual Leaders	These leaders share a similar role to the community support. Music is involved in many religions and cultures and by sharing that information with our school we only stand to enrich our communities' education.

PAPA Planning Notes:

PAPA will strive to integrate as much of the community into the school as possible. No music educator is an expert on the music of all of the cultures in the world; we can only hope to rely on the community to enrich the multicultural education of our students.

PAPA will act as an advocacy unit at the district level to lobby for funding in music education.

PAPA will work with community businesses to fund instruments and supplies for students to be able to explore music in their education.

PAPA recognizes that not all educators are music educators. PAPA only wants to ensure that music is an instructional aide to teachers not an extra lesson plan. PAPA will provide CDs, lists of songs, and training on how to use music in every day education

PAPA's Philosophy:

PAPA believes in a fostering of multicultural awareness through music education. Students will be exposed to a variety of music and how it is use to communicate, celebrate, and emote in various religions and cultures.

PAPA Meeting Schedule:

Meet at least bi monthly to check in. Several committees will need to be formed to reach out to the community for performances, work with school to organize building use, reach out to local businesses to request donations, organize a "Musical Notes" newsletter to inform families of ongoing events in the community that are opportunities to experience music, collaborate and support teachers in using music as an educational tool, and communicate with the principal. Every time PAPA meets they will review the tasks of each committee and determine if there is any support needed for the committees to complete their tasks.

PAPA Calendar of Events:

September: Oktoberfest (German)

October: Greek Festival

November: Native American Heritage Month

December: Chorale Appreciation

January: Chinese/Tet (Vietnamese) New Year (3rd weekend in Jan)

February: Carnevale (Italian Celebrations) (end of February)

March: International Marching Band Day (Band) 3/4

April: International Jazz Day (4/30)

May: Cinco de Mayo (Mexican Celebration) 5/5

June: Odunde Festival (first week in June celebrating African/Brazilian/Bahlia Culture)

PAPA Evaluations:

Papa will elicit evaluations from teachers and parents in the form of a survey at the end of the school year as to how they feel about the music intervention. PAPA will also facilitate thank you cards signed by the students of the school to send to participating groups.

PAPA Future Implications:

Currently the community outreach program focuses on music. The overall goal is to keep music education and exploration in the school while funding is vanishing for most music programs. We can do this by incorporating music into the current school environment as well as by inviting music from the community into the school and inviting our students and families to explore music throughout the community. This allows students to continue to experience and discover music in multiple domains of their life. Going forward, the goal of the program is to evolve this concept for not just music, but other artistic mediums that are in danger of disappearing from the student experience.

Advancing the Music

In addition to the classroom music curriculum, the hope is that students will be able to engage with music by playing instruments or singing. A partnership with the Portland based Ethos Music Center will allow the school to bring music to the students. The Ethos Music Corp program is about starting music lessons at the school with teachers from Ethos. After the students have interacted with music at school, this program will allow them to take their music interests further and learn more about playing music.

Further Arts Education

Beyond music, the goal is to replicate the work done with music in the school and bring in community resources that teach students about other performing arts (theater, dance, etc.) as well as visual arts. Similar to the music program, the goal will be to work with community organizations and programs that specialize in arts education. Students will interact with the material through observation and experience. In order to accomplish this goal, community programs will be invited to start after school arts workshops so that the students can experience painting, sculpture, dance, or whatever the art medium might be. The students would also be invited to explore opportunities in the community such as art exhibits, galleries, and theater performances. Although much of these programs will be reliant on donations, the goal is also to organize an annual fundraising drive that would raise money to supplement some services not covered by donations.

Music Education is Essential Education