

To: District 225 Board of Education  
Dr. Mike Riggle, Superintendent

From: Lauren Fagel, Principal, GBS  
John Finan, Principal, GBN  
Josh Koo, Assistant Principal, Student Activities, GBS  
Mike Tarjan, Assistant Principal, Student Activities, GBN  
Mark Maranto, Instructional Supervisor, Fine Arts, GBS  
Chad Davidson, Instructional Supervisor, Fine Arts, GBN

Date: May 20, 2019

Re: Review of Performance Opportunities in the Arts

### **Background**

On August 27, 2018, the Board of Education approved by consensus the District Initiatives for 2018-2019. One of the initiatives listed in this document read: “Performance Opportunities in the Arts - conduct a thorough overview of performance opportunities that exist for students in all grade levels in all areas of the arts.” The expected outcome of this initiative is “a comprehensive report that will identify needs and concerns for student performance opportunities in the arts as well as offer recommendations for Board consideration and possible action.”

### **Introduction**

Glenbrook High School District 225 has a long tradition of excellence in the performing arts. Students excel by performance in a wide range of the arts including vocal music, instrumental music, dance, and musical and dramatic theatre. Parents support the development and participation of their students in school programs by driving them to and from rehearsals, volunteering at various performing arts events, and serving as enthusiastic audience members. Finally, the Northbrook and Glenview communities demonstrate appreciation for this legacy through their attendance at performances and support of various performing arts booster clubs.

In order to cultivate and maintain a high caliber performing arts program and ensure that students are given ample opportunities to perform, it is necessary that the performing arts faculty and administration periodically review performance opportunities available to students at all levels, as well as the rate and consistency of student participation. Reviews of this type will help identify potential gaps in

performance opportunities for students within certain grade levels or within specific areas of the performing arts.

### **Review Process**

A Performing Arts Performances Review Committee was formed to review student performance opportunities and consisted of the following members:

Dr. John Finan, Principal, GBN

Dr. Lauren Fagel, Principal, GBS

Mr. Josh Koo, Assistant Principal, Student Activities, GBS

Dr. Mike Tarjan, Assistant Principal, Student Activities, GBN

Mr. Chad Davidson, Instructional Supervisor, Fine Arts, GBS

Mr. Mark Maranto, Instructional Supervisor, Fine Arts, GBN

The Committee took the following steps in formulating this report:

1. Student participation data was collected and analyzed for each area of the performing arts. ( Appendix A)
2. Feedback was solicited from the GBS and GBN performing arts teachers in the curriculum areas of band, choir, orchestra, theatre, and dance.
3. Feedback was solicited from building and district administrators including the Associate Principals of Administrative Services, Dr. Riggle, Dr. Gravel, Dr. Ptak, Dr. Williamson, and Mr. Swanson.
4. Feedback was reviewed that was shared by concerned parents at previous Board meetings and Parents Association meetings at each school.

### **Findings**

**Student Performances Opportunities within the curriculum.** As part of the co-curricular experience, students who are enrolled in band, orchestra, and/or choir have scheduled performance opportunities that are required as part of the curriculum. Enrolled students are also invited and strongly encouraged by their teachers to audition for extracurricular ensembles and school-sponsored productions.

**Theatrical Opportunities.** Gaps were identified in dramatic theatrical performance opportunities during each season: fall, winter, spring. *During the three seasons, there is a lack of consistency in offering multiple levels of on-stage performances, when compared to the athletic structure (varsity, jv, etc.).* For example, when GBS or GBN hosts the Glenbrook Musical, that is the only spring production with main stage opportunity for the host school. However, it is worthy to note that the Glenbrook

Musical accommodates far more students from each school than an internal dramatic theatre production is able to support.

**Dance Opportunities.** Dance opportunities at each school are limited due to a lack of rehearsal and performance spaces that meet the needs of dance. *Due to existing space constraints, the current dance studios can accommodate only one group of dancers at a time. As a result, the other dance groups must rehearse in hallways, cafeterias, and classrooms without proper flooring and mirrors.* There are also scheduling conflicts that arise with the use of these supplemental rehearsal spaces with other events hosted by the schools. Opportunities for incoming freshmen in the area of dance are of particular concern due to the growing number of participants in recent years.

**Staff Extracurricular Leadership.** The current Glenbrook performing arts teachers serve as the primary source of leadership for the extracurricular program opportunities for students. Each teacher directs numerous groups in their respective areas and often collaborates in teams to direct the major productions at their respective schools and across the district. In every respect, they are maximizing the use of their time outside the school day in an effort to give students as many performance opportunities as possible. *In order to provide additional opportunities for students, additional stipend positions incorporating additional internal and external sponsors and coaches will need to be considered.*

**Facilities.** According to the staff, the auditoriums and dance studios at both schools have limited flexibility in scheduling as they currently operate at capacity, year round. Existing outside rentals contribute to the stressors on the staff and facilities. Large classrooms and other spaces not designed for the performing arts are used on a frequent basis in both schools to host theatrical and musical performances. The lighting, sound, and stage specifications in these areas were not designed for musical and/or theatrical performances. In addition, fire code restrictions limit the ability for both schools to accommodate larger audiences in smaller, make-shift performance spaces.

### **Glenbrook Musical**

The Glenbrook musical has been a combined performance for its entire 50 year existence. This project brings together students and staff from both high schools in a collaborative effort to produce an outstanding performance that is enjoyed by thousands of audience members each year. Over the years, the administration and the fine arts staff have considered the possibility of staging separate yearly musicals at each school. The major concerns with staging two large-scales musicals are:

1. Cost: Producing two large-scale musicals will require an increase in budget allocation.
2. Staff: Producing two large-scale musicals will require hiring additional staff from outside Glenbrook District 225.
3. Stage Crew: Producing two large-scale musicals will require a larger number of students participating in stage crew; this is an activity that presents a recruitment challenge every year.
4. Cast: Producing two large-scale musicals will create a casting shortage for male roles. A very small number of male students audition for the combined musical (in 2019, 37 males auditioned for *Mamma Mia!*, and 31 male students were cast).
5. Orchestration - Producing two large-scale musicals would require that we hire private instrumentalists to fill needed roles in the orchestra. Based on the widely varying needs of the pit orchestra from year to year depending on the style of the show (rock band for *Mamma Mia!* vs. Symphony Orchestra for *Les Miserables* or *Phantom of the Opera*), keeping the pit combined ensures that we will be able to provide the instrumentation needed for the show.
6. Dramatic Theatre Opportunities - Producing two large-scale musicals would mean that theatre students would not have the chance to perform in the auditorium each spring.

For Fall 2019, both high schools are considering the production of school-based mini-musicals. While this will provide additional opportunities for students who enjoy musical theatre, it will remove opportunities for students who enjoy and participate exclusively in dramatic theatre.

### **Recommendations**

- **It is recommended that a comprehensive facility needs assessment be conducted at both schools in all areas of the performing arts.** This needs assessment is to include a review of the current programming of each facility to include current and aspirational needs of each performing arts area. The comprehensive facility needs assessment will be presented to the Facilities Committee for preliminary review and consideration. Please see the facility needs assessment proposal from Schuler Shook attached to this memo (Appendix B). The Schuler Shook Company specializes in theater and lighting designs and has the ability and expertise to conduct studies of this type and has done so with several area high school districts.

- **It is recommended that a differential stipend be added at each high school to expand student opportunities in the area of Orchestras.** Participation in modern dance is extremely high at both schools. With the addition of a second assistant sponsor at each school, the format of the program at GBN can be expanded to mirror the inclusive efforts that currently exist at GBS and the GBS program can be further refined to more closely parallel the advanced opportunities that exist in the GBN program. *The addition of two Category VI stipends for Assistant Director of the Modern Dance Show represents a cost ranging from \$8,668 to \$14,870 depending on the experience levels of the sponsors hired.*
- **It is recommended that a differential stipend be added at each high school to expand student opportunities in the area of Poms.** At the present time, GBS operates a competitive Poms program consisting of two levels, while GBN maintains a non-competitive Poms program consisting of two levels. The addition of two Assistant Poms Sponsors will allow both schools to significantly increase the number of students participating in Poms, particularly at the freshman and sophomore level. GBS will be continuing as a competitive program, while GBN will strongly consider transitioning from a non-competitive program to a competitive program in the near future. *The addition of a Category V stipend for the competitive program and a Category VI stipend for the non-competitive program represents a cost ranging from \$10,455 to \$17,590 depending on the experience levels of the coaches hired.*

<b>GBN Student Activities Participation</b>		
2017-2018		
Activity	Participation	Audition
Advanced Choral (Express)	26	48
Chamber Music (Band)	40	40
Color Guard	17	17
District Orchestra	160 [1]	160
Fall Play	23	52
Fermata Nowhere	9	23
Winter Play	6	39
Group Interp/Contest	13	27
Ladies First Choir	28	28
Marching Band	71	71
Modern Dance	61	83
Music Show (Musical)	84	147
Ow!	8	16
Pompon (Non-Competitive)	45	71
Student Directed 1-Acts	37	46
Winter Showcase	17	
Variety Show	160	90*
Pep Band	60	60

GBN and GBS

2018-2019		
Activity	Participation	Audition
Advanced Choral	24	42
Chamber Music (Band)	35	35
Color Guard	18	18
District Orchestra	167 [2]	167
Fall Play	17	28
Fermata Nowhere	9	30
Winter Play	n/a	n/a
Group Interp/Contest	18	26
Ladies First Choir	29	29
Marching Band (No audition)	68	n/a
Modern Dance (Orchesis)	59	94
Music Show (Musical)	85	157
Ow!	8	13
Pompon (Non-Competitive)	49	80
Student Directed 1-Acts	27	35
Winter Showcase	14	21
Variety Show	164 [3]	100
Pep Band (No audition)	55	n/a
Freshman/Soph play (no cut)	21	21

GBN and GBS

Curricular Opportunities	Participation	
Treble Choir (No audition)	24	24
Varsity Choir (No audition)	18	18
Spartan Choir (No audition)	18	18
Cecilian Singers	33	33
Chorale	48	48
Freshman String Ensemble	25	25
Symphonic Orchestra	58	58
Freshman Band (no audition)	30	30
Symphonic Band (no audition)	37	37
Symphonic Wind Ensemble	40	

Curricular Opportunities	Participation	
Treble Choir (No audition)	24	24
Varsity Choir (No audition)	28	28
Spartan Choir (No audition)	15	15
Cecilian Singers	19	19
Chorale	62	62
Freshman String Ensemble (no a	23	23
Symphonic Orchestra	49	49
Freshman Band (no audition)	37	37
Symphonic Band (no audition)	39	39
Symphonic Wind Ensemble	42	

<b>GBS Student Activities Participation</b>		
2017-2018		
Activity	Participation	Audition
Chamber Singers	22	
De La Cru Dance	24	60
District Orchestra	160	160
Frosh/Soph Play	11	11
Fall Play	20	30
Jazz Band	62	62
Latino Heat Dance	12	16
Marching Band	152	152
Nine	9	
Orchesis	110	110
Paradox	15	
Pep Band	152	152
Play	12	
Scat That!	14	
Solace	10	
Spring Play	20	
Variety Show	381	
Winter Play	13	15
Comedy Sportz	15	18
Comedy Troupe	15	17
Curricular Opportunities	Participation	
Bel Canto	26	26
Titan Chorus	10	10
Glee Club Choir	55	55
Master Singers	68	68
Premier Chorus	35	35
Freshman String Ensemble	30	30
Symphonic Orchestra	44	44

2018-2019		
Activity	Participation	Audition
Chamber Singers	22	32
De La Cru Dance	24	35
De La Cru Club	20	20
District Orchestra	167	167
Frosh/Soph Play	10	10
Fall Play	15	20
Jazz Band	60	60
Latino Heat Dance	14	17
Marching Band	150	150
Nine	9	20
Orchesis	110	110
Paradox	20	20
Pep Band	150	150
Poms (V & JV)	40	60
Scat That!	14	21
Solace	9	19
Spring Play	n/a	n/a
Variety Show	429	
Winter Play	20	20
Comedy Sportz	12	14
Comedy Troupe	16	18
Curricular Opportunities	Participation	
Bel Canto (no audition)	25	25
Titan Chorus (no audition)	10	10
Girls Glee (no audition)	50	50
Master Singers	66	66
Premier Chorus (no audition)	34	34
Concert Band	24	24
Freshman Marching Band	27	27
Symphonic Marching Band	60	60
Symphonic Orchestra	58	58
Freshman String Ensemble	22	22
Symphonic Winds	54	54

## Mamma Mia Statistics

AUDITIONED				
	GBN	GBS	Total	
Male		13	24	37
Female		53	67	120
Total Numbers		66	91	157
	42.00%	58.00%		

CAST			
	GBN	GBS	
Male		9	22
Female		30	24
Total		39	46
Percentage		46%	54%

CUT			
	GBN	GBS	
Male		5	2
Female		25	45
Total		30	46

[Link to Musical Data \(2010-Present\)](#)

Show/School/Year	Rent (GBN 2010)	Phantom (GBN 2012)	Blonde (GBN 2014)	H2\$ (GBS 2015)	Aida (GBN 2016)	Fiddler (GBS 2017)	Mermaid (GBN 2018)	Mamma Mia (GBS 2019)
<b>Total # of Auditionees</b>	173 auditionees	158 auditionees	162 auditionees		116 auditionees	148 auditionees	147 auditionees	157 auditionees
# of GBN Auditionees	99 students	90 students	90 students	aprx. 45 students	64 students	59 students	76 students	66 students
% of GBN Auditionees	57.20%	57%	55.60%		55.20%	39.90%	51.70%	42%
# of GBS Auditionees	74 students	68 students	71 students	68 students	52 students	89 students	71 students	91 students
% of GBS Auditionees	42.70%	43%	43.80%		44.80%	60.10%	48.30%	58%
			(1 off-campus)					
<b>Total # of Cast</b>	99 cast members	94 cast members	89 cast members	82 cast members	79 cast members	96 cast members	84 cast members	85 cast members
# of GBN Cast	66 students	54 students	52 students	34 students	44 students	42 students	47 students	39 students
% of GBN Cast	66.60%	57.40%	58.40%	41.50%	55.70%	43.75%	56%	46%
# of GBS Cast	33 students	40 students	37 students	48 students	35 students	54 students	37 students	46 students
% of GBS Cast	33.30%	42.60%	41.60%	58.50%	44.30%	56.25%	44%	54%
<b>Standard Deviation (+/- 5%)</b>	9%	0.40%	2.80%		0.50%	3.85%	4.30%	4.30%

#### Trends

When the musical is at GBS, more South students audition and are cast

When the musical is at GBN, more North students audition and are cast

Audition stats for Chicago (GBS 2011) and West Side Story (GBS 2013) are unknown



Michael Riggle <mriggle@glenbrook225.org>

---

## Glenbrook 2019 Musical Cast - Invitation to edit

---

Mark Maranto <mmaranto@glenbrook225.org>  
To: Michael Riggle <mriggle@glenbrook225.org>  
Cc: Josh Koo <jkoo@glenbrook225.org>

Mon, Apr 8, 2019 at 11:02 AM

Mike--

Rich Winship reports that there are 32 total crew numbers. 29 are from GBS and 3 are from GBN. These numbers are in keeping with my Little Mermaid experience from last year.

Best,

Mark

[Quoted text hidden]

--

Mark Maranto  
Instructional Supervisor for Fine Arts  
Glenbrook South High School



847-486-4436

**Mission Statement:** *To inspire creativity through authentic, collaborative learning communities within a culture of excellence in order to challenge the next generation of artists and supporters of the arts.*



Michael Riggle <mriggle@glenbrook225.org>

---

## Glenbrook 2019 Musical Cast - Invitation to edit

---

Mark Maranto <mmaranto@glenbrook225.org>  
To: Michael Riggle <mriggle@glenbrook225.org>

Sun, Apr 7, 2019 at 4:17 PM

Mike—

Here is Aaron Kaplan's reply:

In the pit of 41:

18 are GBN and 23 are GBS

2 pit managers from GBS

3 music preparation lab assts from GBN

And feel free to use this if applicable:

Just like our combined district orchestra program, the musical pit orchestra is also combined - and that is critical to the success of the show. Based on the widely varying needs of the pit orchestra from year to year depending of the style of the show (rock band for Mamma Mia vs. Symphony Orchestra for Les Mis or Phantom), keeping the pit combined ensures that we will be able to provide the instrumentation needed for the show. For the last 6 years that I've conducted the pit, I can honestly say that had the musicals been separate - there is no way that the instrumentation would have been covered by either school completely. Between spring sports and AP exams, the number of kids who can commit to playing in the pit is limited, and we have only been able to be successful because we can draw resources and student musicians from both schools.

Hope that helps!

Aaron

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]



14 May 2019

Ms. Kim Ptak  
 Director of Operations  
 Glenbrook High School District 225  
 3801 West Lake Avenue  
 Glenview, Illinois, 60026

RE: Glenbrook North and Glenbrook South High Schools – Needs Assessment for Performing Arts

Kim,

This proposal outlines scope of work and cost for our services as theatre consultants for the above-named project. We propose to provide our services to provide a needs assessment for the Performing Arts programs (dance, theatre and music).

This proposal addresses the request for us to review performance and assembly programming at each high school and to assess the potential need for additional space at one or both schools.

The scope of our services will be as follows:

1. Review plan and section drawings of each school.
2. Meet with GBN and GBS representatives to:
  - a. Discuss use and program of the existing performance venues. Discuss performances currently programmed as well as aspirational programs. Discuss numbers of student involved, audience counts, and production activity. Discuss actual or perceived gaps in performance practicum activities and events.
  - b. Tour each building to investigate opportunities within existing spaces.

We anticipate one full-day visit to each school for these services.

3. Provide a planning memo that a) assesses the programming input and available space(s) and b) makes recommendations on potential added rehearsal or performance spaces, including type, audience size, general square footage, and required support space.

**PARTNERS**

Michael DiBlasi  
 Todd Hensley  
 Jim Baney  
 Jack Hagler  
 Michael Burgoyne  
 Emily Klingensmith  
 Giulio Pedota  
 Joshua Grossman

**DIRECTORS**

Duane Schuler  
 Robert Shook

750 North Orleans  
 Suite 400  
 Chicago, IL  
 60654 USA

+1 312 944 8230



- 4. Meet with GBN and GBS representatives to review and discuss the planning memo. Provide revised memo based on the discussions. Make recommendations for future steps, based on the final recommendations.
- 5. Up to three trips to the School District included in this proposal.

**Fees**

Our fees for the above services will be as follows:

Second Theatre Needs Assessment ..... \$6,100.00

Reimbursable expenses ..... approx. \$200.00

This proposal is valid for 60 days following the date of submission.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this proposal. We hope you find it complete and acceptable. To authorize us to begin work, please sign and return a copy to us. We look forward to working with you on this project.

Schuler Shook

Todd Hensley, ASTC  
Partner

**ACCEPTED FOR GLENBROOK HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 225:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINTED NAME AND TITLE