

2018 Example

Proposal Questions

1. Describe your school and the community it serves. (10 points)

_____ Middle School _____ is the largest middle school in the Washoe County School District (WCSD) with a current enrollment of 1,244 as reported by the _____ MS registrar on March 9, 2018. Per WCSD policy, all 6th grade students are required to participate in the music class of their choosing: band, choir, or orchestra. Although enrollment is optional for 7th and 8th grade students, many students choose to continue in music classes throughout their middle and high school years. According to the _____ MS principal, approximately two-thirds of _____ MS students are enrolled in one or more music classes.

_____ MS is unique in that it is the main feeder middle school for _____ High School Performing Arts Center Signature Academy as evidenced by the school zoning maps found on the WCSD website. The _____ MS Music Department takes this responsibility seriously and works hard to provide a high quality musical education to its students.

Much like athletics, music at _____ MS engages students in academics by providing them with a course that fuses math, science, history, culture, and physical movement with creativity and emotion – essential curricula for middle school students.

2. Describe the target population of this program. (10 points)

- a. Age of students/youth.
- b. Gender make-up of the students/youth.
- c. Race/ethnicity of students/youth.
- d. Income level of families.

Incoming 6th grade students who will enroll in Orchestra for SY 2018-19 are the target population of this program. According to WCSD's online gradebook, Infinite Campus, current 6th grade orchestra students range in ages from 11 years 6 months to 13 years 2 months as of March 2018. Four students receive modifications due to disabilities defined under the IDEA and described in an Individualized Education Plan, two students receive accommodations as described by a 504 Plan, and 18 students have physical conditions monitored by Health Care Plans. The current gender breakdown of students in the _____ MS 6th grade orchestra program is as follows: 32 males (29 violin, 11 viola, 8 cello, 4 bass), 58 females (32 violin, 9 viola, 12 cello, 5 bass). These numbers fluctuate slightly year to year but can be used to predict next year's 6th grade orchestra enrollment.

The website nevadareportcard.com lists MS ethnic diversity for SY 2016-17 as: 67.48% White, 17.08% Hispanic, 6.54% Asian, 5.8% Two or More Races, 1.55% African American, less than 1% Native American, and less than 1% Pacific Islander. 23% of MS students are eligible for the Free or Reduced Lunch program. In SY 2017-18, close to 50 families of 6th grade orchestra students requested a school instrument rental. It is WCSD's policy to first distribute school instrument rentals to families in financial need as approved by school administration. Only after that are remaining instruments made available to other families. This year, due to high enrollment numbers which led to instrument shortages, MS was only able to provide 17 of those families a school instrument based on administration's approval of the families' financial need. The other 33 families who were not in financial need had to rent/purchase their own instruments.

3. Describe the program for which musical instruments are needed. (20 points)

The MS Orchestra has been in existence since the school opened in the Fall 2009. The MS Orchestra offers four classes:

1. Beginning Orchestra – This class is for 6th grade students only.
2. Intermediate Orchestra – This class is for all 7th grade students and any 8th grade students who are beginners, want to learn a second instrument, or want more experience on their primary instrument.
3. Advanced Orchestra – This class is for 8th grade students only.
4. The Fiddlers – This class is for 7th and 8th grade students who wish to learn about and perform American fiddle music with a focus on Western tunes.

Each of the MS Orchestras present a minimum of four concerts per year that are open to the parents and other community members. Each year 10-15 MS 7/8th grade orchestra students audition for WCSD's Junior Honor Orchestra and are accepted at the rate of 100%.

The goal of the Orchestra is to grow independent musicians while supporting the school's mission through the vehicle of stringed instrument education:

"It is our mission at Middle School to produce students who are *personally responsible, accountable, and productive* while fostering their spirit of inquiry; as a community of learners they will become *collaborators, creators and communicators*. As a staff, we are committed to providing a *rigorous and relevant* curriculum while integrating character education, so students understand the importance of stretching themselves personally in order to contribute positively to their family and community."

Practicing at home and bringing instruments to class are just two ways orchestra students are trained to be "personally responsible, accountable, and productive." Orchestra students *collaborate* and *communicate* with their peers when they practice o

perform together in small groups. They *create* by writing their own compositions. The teacher presents a *rigorous* and *relevant* curriculum that includes instrument technique, musicality, music theory, music history, music's role in culture, and the responsibility of musicians to society.

The goal of this specific project is to provide all incoming 6th grade viola players with a school instrument. These instruments are needed to ensure that viola instruction can begin in the second week of school instead of waiting weeks for parents to purchase/rent an instrument. MS already provides all incoming basses and most cellos with a school instrument. A future goal is to purchase enough violins and a few more cellos to provide every incoming 6th grade student with a school instrument.

4. What musical instruments will be purchased with this funding? (5 points)

With this funding, the MS Orchestra will purchase 21 Franz Hoffman Amadeus viola outfits from Shar (www.sharmusic.com), specifically four 12" violas, eight 13" violas, and nine 14" violas. Violas that are appropriate for beginning middle school students cost in the neighborhood of \$200-400 with some vendors including cases and bows and others not. Shar sells the Amadeus viola outfits to schools at the cost of \$239 including bow and case upgrades. Purchasing 21 of these violas will cost \$5,019.00. The \$19 over the grant limit of \$5,000 will be paid by the Orchestra fundraising account.

5. What is the need for the musical instruments being requested? (10 points)

Since 2009, the Administration and Orchestra have spent around \$34,000 on instrument purchases (17 basses, 26 cellos, 8 violas, 4 violins) to add to the orchestra's inventory. The focus has been on fractional sizes of basses and cellos which are cost prohibitive for many families to rent or purchase. Because of this, there are a few remaining resources available to purchase violas and violins.

Since all WCSD 6th graders are required to take a music class, parents hope to receive a school instrument rental. When they are notified that they do not qualify based on financial need or that no more instruments are available, they spend several more weeks researching where to rent or buy an instrument. It can be up to six weeks into the school year before each 6th grade orchestra student has an instrument. This is a huge waste of instructional time.

Often parents purchase instruments online that are extremely inferior and/or defective. These instruments are difficult for the student to play and require a significant amount of the teacher's time to tune at the beginning of each class. This extra time spent tuning these inferior instruments takes instructional time away from the class as a whole.

6. How will the musical instruments being requested enhance or benefit your program? (15 points)

Providing these instruments to students also means that instruction can begin the 2nd week of school instead of the 6th or 7th week after parents have rented/purchased instruments.

Since many students are not familiar with the viola, they are hesitant to choose it. One way of increasing the number of students who choose viola is to provide school instruments to all 6th grade viola players. When students continue viola in 7th grade, they will know how an instrument is supposed to feel and sound and will be able to identify for themselves inferior instruments. The teacher will have established a relationship with students and parents that will allow for guidance regarding instrument purchase/rental.

7. How many students/youth will be affected by your request? (5 points)

Barring the unforeseen, violas can last 20 years or longer. Thus, 21 new violas will directly benefit 420 students over the life of the instrument. Indirectly, every student enrolled in orchestra will benefit from the fuller sound of a larger viola section. Over a 20 year period, those indirectly impacted would be in the thousands.

8. What difference will this program make to your school and community? (15 points)

The orchestra program provides students with an opportunity to learn so much more than just how to play an instrument. It also exercises fine motor skills, teaches the role of music in history and society, provides hands on experimentation with the science of acoustics through vibrations and sound waves and, most importantly for middle school students, provides an outlet for emotional and creative expression.

6th grade students are not typically big enough for what are considered full size stringed instruments. This means that parents must return to the music stores to trade up for larger instruments as the students grow. This can be cost prohibitive and a deterrent for students choosing to play a stringed instrument. Providing these instruments in 6th grade will postpone the need for families to purchase/rent a viola until the 7th grade giving students another year of physical growth as well as a year of training.

9. Budget and budget justification. (10 points)

Program/Project Budget/Budget Narrative

Categories	Amount		
	H&J Request	Other Funding	Total Costs
www.sharmusic.com			
4 – Franz Hoffman Amadeus 12" Viola Outfit (\$189) with SHAR Fusion bow (\$15) and Thermoplastic shaped viola case (\$35) upgrades – \$239 each	\$956		\$956
8 – Franz Hoffman Amadeus 12" Viola Outfit (\$189) with SHAR Fusion bow (\$15) and Thermoplastic shaped viola case (\$35) upgrades – \$239 each	\$1,912		\$1,912
9 – Franz Hoffman Amadeus 12" Viola Outfit (\$189) with SHAR Fusion bow (\$15) and Thermoplastic shaped viola case (\$35) upgrades – \$239 each	\$2,132	19.00	\$2,151
TOTAL H&J REQUEST	5,000.00		
TOTAL OTHER RESOURCES OR MATCH		19.00*	
PROGRAM TOTAL			5,019.00

JUSTIFICATION:

MS will use this grant to purchase four 12" viola outfits, eight 13" viola outfits, and nine 14" viola outfits (outfits include viola, bow, case). Smaller sized violas fit the hand size and height of 6th grade students. This makes it easier for them to learn to play the instrument properly because their fingers will be able to play the notes in tune without have to stretch the fingers beyond what is appropriate for their hand size. With appropriate sized violas, the students are more likely to be and feel successful and thus continue playing the instrument through middle school, high school, and beyond. The Franz Hoffman brand has been chosen due to their cost (school price is \$239 per outfit with bow and case upgrades). This model/brand is only sold by Shar who provides a one year warranty and, prior to shipping, will make minor adjustments necessary to acclimate the violas to the high desert climate. Purchasing 21 of these violas will cost \$5,019.00.

**The \$19 over the grant limit of \$5,000 will be paid by the _____ Orchestra fundraising account.*