



Keene Elementary Schools Strings Report

Report prepared for the Keene School Board Education Committee

Patty Yoerger
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Background

The Elementary Strings program began in the fall of 2006. At that time, a large purchase was made that included instruments for each building and general supplies. A 40% strings position was created and a teacher was hired to introduce third grade students to the strings family including: viola, violin, and cello. Student lessons were conducted during the school day in all five elementary schools during the 2006-07 school year. Fifty-five students participated in the program.

In the 2007-08 school year, the teaching position was increased to an 80% position. Lessons were now being provided to seventy-seven students in grades three and four. Before and after school ensembles were conducted as well as a number of recitals throughout the year. A community connection was established with the Keene Chamber Orchestra as well as with the Keene State College Music program.

In the 2008-09 school year, the teaching position remained at 80% and started with eighty-five students in grades three, four, and five. Ensembles continued as well as performances in each school and a Mother's Day concert at the Colonial Theater. Collaboration and planning began with Keene Middle School to prepare for the transition of the program to KMS in the Fall of 2009. It was anticipated that twenty-two students would participate in the strings program at KMS in the fall of 2009. Over the summer of 2009, a 20% strings teacher for KMS was hired.

In the 2009- 2010 school year, a change in faculty occurred and a new strings teacher was hired at the elementary level. At the present time 106 students are participating in lessons in grades three, four, and five, in the five elementary schools.

For the 2010-11 budget, there are no plans to increase the length of the teacher contract- it will remain at 80% at the elementary level. There will be some budgetary requests for music technology and supplies (\$1650). It is anticipated that 14 students will transition to KMS and participate in the string program in grade 6 (fall 2010). Dotty Frazier will be addressing this in her 2010-2011 budget.

If questions arise prior to next Tuesday's meeting, please contact Patty Yoerger at pyoerger@sau29.org or by calling 352.8012.