

MacPhail Center for Music
7/1/20-12/31/20 Interim Progress Report (IPR) to MDE
Grant ID #4931

Online programs offered

MacPhail's Online School Partnerships (OSP) Program works with schools across Greater Minnesota to offer supplemental music education resources. The partnerships expand and enhance, rather than replace, music learning opportunities provided by public schools, while offering professional development and collegial support to music educators. Programming takes the form of individual lessons, group lessons, sectionals (small rehearsals of students playing the same instrument), early childhood music education, depending on the needs identified through each partnership. OSP remains an innovative, cost-effective response to the needs of communities where instrument or music genre specialists are inaccessible due to geography or location, and the instruction offered by the program is especially well-suited to fill remote education needs caused by COVID-19. MacPhail's roster of Teaching Artists includes highly credentialed musicians who provide in-depth instruction in flute and clarinet, low brass, double-reed, percussion, voice and jazz styles that would not otherwise be available to residents in the communities served through this grant funding.

Program outcomes

Program outcomes for both OSP and SPL activities in Greater Minnesota were completed in collaboration with our partners at Wilder Research in October 2020. OSP partnered with 13 schools and served 553 students during the 2019-20 school year while employing the talents of 24 Teaching Artists. Participating schools received anywhere between 12 and 267 hours of instruction, totaling 1,479 total hours. Four of the 13 schools conducted SPL programming during this period, employing three Teaching Artists who instructed a total of 283 students. Schools participating in SPL had between 12 and 83 hours of instruction each, totaling 245 instruction hours altogether.

The collaborative OSP evaluation process conducted by MacPhail and Wilder focused on seven partner schools that were able to participate in music skills assessments and student surveys: Buffalo High, Detroit Lakes High, Kerkoven-Murdock-Sunburg High, Kingsland Senior High, Tri-County High, MACCRAY High and Willmar High. Additionally, Deer River High participated in music educator interviews. 68 students were evaluated through these assessments and surveys, which were specifically designed to measure each student's musical skills, ability to focus, confidence, intonation, technique, rhythm, musical expression, tone quality, and other aspects related to their progress throughout the program. Pre- and post-measurements showed significant advancement in the mean musical skill scores of all students participating in the survey, with nearly 90% of students expressing the online sessions increased their appreciation of music. Two-thirds of students reported they are interested in continuing with their instrument after graduating high school, 90% of students agreed that the technology used by OSP made it easy to learn and 100% showed satisfaction with their Teaching Artist.

Students served

OSP served 567 total students throughout the first six months of Year Two of the grant term, having delivered 403.25 hours of total instruction to participants at 14 different locations throughout Greater Minnesota. MacPhail originally estimated we would conduct 1,750 hours of instructional programming to 30 different schools over the entire two-year grant term, and to date we have already provided

1,738.25 total hours of instruction to 18 different schools with six months left in the funding period. All considered, our OSP service delivery since June 2019 has outpaced our initial prediction, displaying the program's success even despite obstacles presented by the pandemic.

An estimate of the unmet need for music education

As noted above, the effects of the pandemic have been challenging to MacPhail and our partners. Collection of state testing data continues to lag its pre-COVID timeline, and reliable broadband access for students in Greater Minnesota is an ongoing problem that is beyond our influence. Additionally, several OSP partners declined to continue with the program because of construction at their sites, staff turnover or various other reasons.

However, all our SPL partnerships were sustained between the previous (2019-20) and current (2020-21) school years. Our partners at NRHEG Elementary in Ellendale enjoyed SPL instruction so much they increased program offerings, which speaks to the high level of satisfaction it offers during difficult times. Similarly, Buffalo High in Buffalo and Laker Prep Preschool in Detroit Lakes opted to offer OSP programming over the summer session, showing how much they value OSP programming. The beginning of the new school year also brought in new allegiances with Big Lake High in Big Lake, John Marshall High in Rochester, and Pierz Healy High in Pierz.

Detailed list of expenditures

MacPhail's Administration and Supervision costs remained at \$6,955 throughout the first two quarters of Year Two of the grant term. Expenditures for Non-Licensed Classroom Personnel increased in response to the beginning of the school year in early September, growing from \$1,325 in Q1 to \$20,483 in Q2. Related changes can be noted in FICA/Medicare costs (\$633 in Q1, \$2,099 in Q2), Health Insurance (\$712 in Q1, \$2,358 in Q2), Tax-Sheltered Annuities/MN Deferred Compensation (\$41 in Q1, \$137 in Q2), Worker's Compensation (\$41 in Q1, \$137 in Q2) and Unemployment Compensation (\$17 in Q1, \$55 in Q2).

Consulting fees of \$10,000 were paid to our partners at Wilder Research in Q2 for their annual evaluation of Online School Partnership student outcomes. \$400 was attributed to repairs for computers and technology, \$838 was allocated in both Q1 and Q2 to Online School Partnership network fees under the Communication Services line item, and \$500 in Supplies & Materials was allocated to instruments, supplies, music and other items for early childhood students.