

NORWICH PARENTS AND RESIDENTS FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

December 10, 2013

Superintendent Abby Dolliver
Norwich Public Schools
90 Town Street
Norwich, CT 06360

Norwich Public Schools Board of Education
90 Town Street
Norwich, CT 06360

Dear Superintendent Dolliver and Members of the Board of Education:

The undersigned represent a group of Norwich-resident parents with children who attend or have attended Norwich Public Schools as well as Norwich residents that, like you, appreciate the value instrumental and choral music add to a child's education and development. Until the budget cuts three years ago, Norwich Public Schools had a rich history of offering instrumental and choral music education, benefitting thousands of NPS students. Equally important, instrumental and choral music education has been linked to improved attendance and better scores on standardized tests.

- On the 2012 SAT, students who participated in music scored an average of 31 points above average in reading, 23 points above average in math, and 31 points above average in writing. College Board SAT, 2012 College-Bound Seniors: Total Group Profile Report.

- Eighth graders in schools within Norwich's District Reference Group (DRG) with more than one music teacher tended to score higher in Math; Reading; Writing; and Science than the schools with just one music teacher. Connecticut Mastery Test 2013.

For the foregoing reasons, we respectfully request instrumental and choral music education for Kelly Middle School and Teachers' Memorial Middle School be included in the proposed NPS Board of Education budget for the 2014-2015 school year. We also intend to

express our concerns with the Norwich City Council and will do everything we can to persuade City Council members to vote in favor of an education budget that meets the needs of each and every Norwich Public School student.

We look forward to discussing this with you further and working with you on this important matter.

Very truly yours,

Mark Cook, Official Contact: Norwich Parents & Residents for Music Education
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Norwich, CT 06360
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Cc: William Peckrul, Principal, Kelly Middle School; Alexandria Lazzari, Principal, Teachers' Memorial Middle School

The undersigned Norwich parents and/or residents support the reinstatement of instrumental and choral music education at Kelly Middle School and Teachers' Memorial Middle School.

Mark Cook

Miriam Wilson

Tim Smith

Karen Cook

Lisa Marien

Theresa Smith

Rebecca Steinhagen

Steve Marien

Neil Steinhagen

Lynn Bustamante

Tom St. George

Mike Marion

Jessica St. George

Connie Mitchell

Barbara Zegarzewski

Bill Mitchell

Jeff Zegarzewski

Richard Chiappetta

Reverend Joslaire Lucien

Sue Curtis

Nicole Yon

Daniel Charron

Travis Yon

Jennifer Charron