

THUMB Meeting 2/10/21

Attendees

Spiro Tsingaris, Suzy Reich, Lisa Barnes, Patty Ginnebaugh, David Lawrence, Deb Miller, Julianne Edmondson

Spiro's Update and Discussion

Promo video: video performances plus photos. Edited by Patrick. Sent to Tam High administration. JC Farr said he would send out with incoming students information. Also sent to Sausalito-Marin City, Willow Creek, Stinson-Bolinas and MVMS. Sent to music teachers at MVMS and teachers showed during class. Offered to join middle school music students on zoom but timing did not work out. Showed video and answered questions at elective fair at TamHS.

Performances on hold for now. Not sure when we will be back in school and if we will be allowed to have performances.

All instrumental groups are working on pieces for video performances
Choir working on a piece, hopefully in time for black history month as it is related to MLK. (James Taylor: Shed a little light).

Equipment Purchased by THUMB: Cameras are being used for zoom. USB hub to attach to keyboard. When back in person, some of the class will be at home and some will be in person. Need to be in physical classroom and also be on zoom so all equipment will be used. Everything is now on a moveable desk. Students in class will see on a screen and others will see on zoom. Desk was purchased recently but all other equipment was previously purchased by THUMB.

All the guest artists have come in and are doing a regular rotation. Exception is Jazz Band because it is so early. Many students are not able to play that early so not feasible to work with guest artists at that hour.

Sign ups for next year are happening but no numbers yet. 5 students have dropped out of music during this school year. Most, maybe all, have said that they have left due to difficulties managing distance learning. Probably will be a dip in numbers next year due to Covid, new string teacher at MVMS (typically there is a dip with new teacher). New music tech class is available for sign ups. If small number of students (2-4), they will join guitar and percussion class. If more, they can be spread out over all the music classes. Need 30 to add a full new elective. Will utilize guest artists to work with music tech students in addition to time with Spiro.

Most elements for building new recording studio have arrived. Everything should be in by March. District needs to schedule staff to do installation. Supposed to happen during the summer but possibility of it happening earlier.

Performances are up in the air. If in person, probably small groups, combo work. May do some large ensemble music if possible. Will have some kind of a live concert by the end of the school year if at all possible.

All students seem fatigued and having trouble with turning in assignments. All teachers in all subjects are reporting this. Spiro is trying to keep work manageable.

Scholarship auditions. No action yet on this. Need further discussion. Usually towards the end of May with sign ups in April. Probably better early May this year. May need to be online or recorded. Currently anything with winds or singing has to be outdoors. Need to discuss at future meeting.

Suggestion by board members to do something to increase morale. Gifts or care packages to kids? Will continue discussion and research.

If kids do performances, are there enough shirts? Probably.

If football games happen and we are not allowed to perform, can we record music for games? How about graduation? Editing is very labor intensive but this is possible for football games. In recent years, school has preferred recorded music for graduation.

Treasurer report from David and discussion

Approx \$45,000 in the bank. This amount does not include the \$5K scholarship to be awarded by the end of the school year. Compared to normal years, very few expenses at end of last school year and this school year. No concerts, festivals, trips. Might be some extra studio expenses or editing expenses. Some older string instruments are not in good repair. 5-6 violins, 2-3 cellos, violas. Decision by board to ask Spiro to get quotes for string repair.

Events/Calendar

Nothing to schedule at this time. Maybe solo ensembles if we are allowed in person. Broadway review would be great.

Need to work on how to handle applications for new \$5000 scholarship for seniors going on to play music in college. Will add this to next meeting agenda.

Approval of minutes

Motion to approve minutes of 1/12/21 meeting. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Next meeting

March 10, 2021 at 7pm