

2009 – 2010 Person High School World Drumming Course Proposal and Rational

Mark Robertson, Instructor

Course Description:

The World Drumming course is designed to familiarize the student with the important culture aspects of drumming from around the world. Important drumming styles and rhythms of the continents of Africa, Asia, North and South American would be the emphasized. The relationship of the cultures to these drumming styles would also be emphasized.

Students in high school need classes that engage and challenge them. We as a staff members need to develop new courses that reach high school students of a wide ethic and academic range in order to prepare them to be competitive in Global environments. Teaching world drumming will give our high schools a chance to study, interact and experience drumming styles from a variety of world cultures with an interactive, visual and entertaining methodology. Students will not only learn how to play several different drumming patterns of selected world cultures but also be introduced to the culture that produces this style of drumming . Learning cultures from a drumming point of view, makes the culture come alive, viable and fun to high school students.

Important aspects to consider with this class are:

- The sense of community, team building , working in a group through a drum circle
- A redirection of a youthful energy transformed from gangs to a positive experience
- Emotional bond that would occur with the students, drumming and learning. Allowing students to do something that would help them have a reason to come and stay in school.

This class would lead to students possibly performing with our Dance classes I, working with our Vocal department; learning chants and songs for drumming. This class might also expand to creating/designing drums with our Art department.

This class should be offered 4th period, keeping students engaged through the entire school day. Students would only be allowed to take this class one time. However, students may audition to be assigned to the Dance classes to provide rhythm accompaniments for our Dance students.

I have been trained to develop and teach this class having had over thirty years of drumming experience in public education. I currently own some of the audio recordings, DVDs, drums and some of the drum materials to teach this class. I have extensive Orff-Schulwerk training having taught similar classes at Kirtland Elementary School in Kirtland, Ohio.

An additional drums and current DVDs would need to be purchased to get this class up and running. This cost could be spread out over several years, with grants to supplement or fund then entire drum expense.

Djembes (African drums):	30 X \$150 (a piece on average):	\$ 4,500
Hand drums (Frame drums/ Doumbeks) :	30 X \$30 (on average):	\$ 900
Samba School Instruments:		\$ 3,000
DVDs		\$ 300

Syllabus and Pacing guide to follow once the basic proposal has been approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark E. Robertson
Director of Bands
Person High School