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Melody Makers

A UC and Hughes STEM High School Collaborative

Issue

Currently there is not an afterschool program (in the spring semester) that is centered on music at Hughes High School. In the fall students may participate in marching band, but there is no spring counterpart to this. It would be extremely advantageous to students if there was a program centered on music education. Many studies have shown the link between schools with strong music programs and academic performance amongst the students, such as the KU study linking music education and academic achievement.¹ An afterschool music program would not just be fun, but it would support academics for students involved.

Just like any high school, Hughes is full of students that enjoy playing music in one form or another. This is exemplified through the marching band and music classes offered at the high school. The afterschool program would expand on these classes and allow students to grow musically in areas that they want to grow in. Students at UC would be able share their own perspective and knowledge about music to the interested Hughes students. This would also be the only program of its type offered to musically inclined students at UC for volunteering.

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The specifics of the music program would be determined once the composition of the Hughes students interested is known. Potentially each meeting could work towards a later concert in which the students perform a learned piece. Another option would be to have a trip to a concert as the final event of the program. Flexibility is key to a program like this, as the best possible option cannot be determined at this moment. UC volunteers will have a lesson plan for each meeting that will be the focus of the day, and then later more individualized attention will be given to the students in order to cater to all skill levels. A specific learning plan can be developed for each participant and UC volunteers would work with students to evaluate their progress and offer advice and mentorship. The program would have an overall goal of having students grow in their ability to read music while having fun.

This program is also a great opportunity for UC students, and recruitment for volunteers will begin in the fall. The center for community engagement will also be a great resource to spread the word. Students that participate in this program will be able to serve the community while

¹ <https://news.ku.edu/2014/01/14/ku-research-establishes-link-between-music-education-and-academic-achievement>

enhancing their own communication, music, and leadership skills. There should be a lot of interest for a program like this.

Conclusion

This program has the potential to attract a lot of students to the afterschool programs by offering something unique in the form of music, and the carefree, informative nature of the program will help students become better musicians while having fun at the same time. This program will also be a great way for UC students to hold a mentorship position focused on music, something that also doesn't exist currently.