

“Imagine” Professional Development Grant
Grant Cover Sheet

Date: 1/31/2018

Project Title: Orff-Schulwerk Level I Certification Course

Educator’s Name: William C. Doublestein

Facility: Boone Meadow Elementary

Educational Background: Bachelor of Arts in Music Education

Teaching Experience: 6 years

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School or Classroom Facebook or Twitter Account: @BowTieMusic1 @ZCSBoone_Meadow, youtube.com/bowtiemusic

Brief Project Summary:

The purpose of this grant is to obtain my level I certification in the Orff-Schulwerk approach to music education, and thereby maximize ZEF’s previous investment of Orff instruments in my classroom. This two week certification course is approved by the American Orff-Schulwerk Association (AOSA) and will be taught at Anderson University from July 9-20, 2018. By taking this certification course I will learn how to more effectively use the Orff instruments in my everyday instruction and in student performances.

Orff-Schulwerk Level I Certification Course

Project Summary

What is Orff-Schulwerk?

Orff-Schulwerk (translated "Orff School Work") is a revolutionary approach to music education emphasizing student empowerment and creativity through song, dance, speech, and instruments. Originally developed by the German composer Carl Orff in the 1950s, Orff-Schulwerk eventually made its way to America, inspiring thousands of music educators across the country to widen their breadth of instruction and make music fun! This began a movement towards academic excellence in American elementary music education that continues to benefit children to this day. There are currently 96 local chapters of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association (AOSA).

What are your reasons for pursuing this experience?

My eyes were first opened to the effectiveness of Orff-Schulwerk in the spring of 2012. It was then that I began a sixteen week student teaching placement at Smoky Row Elementary in the Carmel Clay school district. This placement completely changed my aspirations as a music teacher, and I look back on it today as the most impactful academic experience of my entire undergraduate education. The lessons I learned from my cooperating teacher Josh Southard during those sixteen weeks showed me that the 21st century music classroom doesn't have to look anything like it did when I was a kid. I remember coming into music class as an elementary school student in the early 1990s, sitting behind a desk, opening a textbook, and reading song after song until class was over. This is the way music classes had been structured for decades, and believe it or not some still operate this way today. However, Mr. Southard proved to me that kids can do so much more than sit in a chair and sing. In addition to singing they can also play instruments, perform dances, understand music theory, and even create their own music. This well rounded approach to music education at the elementary level was new to me, and I soon learned that there is a whole community of Orff certified teachers in Indiana and across the United States. I joined my local chapter of the AOSA and began attending Orff workshops with about a hundred other Orff teachers in Indiana. Almost all my best teaching practices have come through the avenue of Orff-Schulwerk, and I believe now is the perfect time to become level I certified. I want to become the best music teacher I can be, and now that I have brand new instruments my greatest need is further education.

What are your goals for this grant?

Earlier this year I was thrilled to receive a brand new set of Orff instruments from the Zionsville Education Foundation. My classroom is now fully stocked with everything I need to implement a heavily Orff based curriculum, but I want to do it in a way that is fully informed and research based. In short, my goal for this Imagine Grant is to maximize ZEF's previous investment by becoming a nationally recognized Level I Orff certified teacher. Doing so will support my mission to help kids have fun learning about, making and performing music.

What are your potential planned activities to accomplish this goal?

To accomplish this goal I will attend two weeks of AOSA approved graduate level courses (not for credit) offered through Anderson University. Courses will be taught by my own cooperating teacher Josh Southard along with Orff masters Lisa Sullivan, Sarah Hassler, and Jenny Handshoe. Included will be classes in pedagogy, movement, recorder, ensemble instruments, and special topics.

What are the anticipated costs for the project?

Tuition for this course is \$885.00. I will commute to and from Anderson University to eliminate hotel costs. If ZEF could cover the cost of mileage I would be grateful. I would be driving 70 miles a day for ten days.

What are your plans to integrate the experience within the school or community?

Upon completion of this course I will use everything I learn to be a more effective music teacher to the students of Boone Meadow and be an advocate for academic excellence in Zionsville schools. I have already begun planning five brand new annual music programs to bring the community into our school and see how effective the Orff approach can be for our kids. These programs will be the culminating musical celebrations of our year for all 450 students at Boone Meadow.

Thank you for considering this grant proposal.