

## Introduction:

The choral music library at Woodside High School in Newport News has been under kept for the past decade due to lack of supplies, time, and volunteer help. Because the library space is small and is also used by Woodside's choral students for independent and group study, it frequently becomes disheveled. This can inhibit the success that students have in music.

Being an alumna from Woodside High School, and a current Choral Music Education Major at CNU, I saw the importance in volunteering in the same space that I used to sing in, to help my future colleague and the students of Woodside High School.

Having a music library and catalog that is thoughtfully restructured and managed would be not only beneficial to the students that use the space, but also for the teacher and the entire program. A lot of the research done on whether or not the arts "deserve" to be funded seems biased based on whether the author does or does not enjoy the arts, but regardless of what support the arts are in need of, at the very least, just like in a science or math classroom, it is important for students to have a workspace free of debris and clutter.

## Community Partnership:

I was a Woodside Wolverine from 2015-2019, where I participated in choir for all four years, under the direction of Mr. Emilio Pesante. When I was a student there, Woodside's choir program offered three beginner level ensembles, Treble Choir, Men's Choir, Intermediate Choir, and three advanced choirs, Select Women's Ensemble, Jubilee Chorale, and Die Meistersingers, all concentrating on specific genres of choral music and requiring various levels of musical knowledge.

Woodside is an Arts and Communications magnet program school, where students take on intensive study in the arts as a part of a full and well-balanced academic program. The arts magnet program concentrates in subjects such as music, visual arts, dance, drama, and creative writing. Through their studies, magnet students gain experience in the teamwork that brings creative events to life.

## Project Plan:

In the timeline of our project with the Woodside High School Choral Program, the plan has been to:

1. Contrast choral directors in the area for ideas on a well-organized music library
2. Hold an informal survey with students and discuss what resources could be implemented for a better practice space
3. Discuss preferred organizational structure to best suit their program
4. Research office and organizational companies to purchase storage boxes
5. Evaluate storage space with community advisor and plan
6. Order supplies for optimal library space
7. Sort music and make a list of every piece of music by title, composer, and year
8. Count and record every copy of each piece of music
9. Order the pieces alphabetically by title
10. Work with students to check and order the numbers of each copy to prepare for housing music in boxes
11. Place music into their boxes and organize them on shelf in order
12. Label boxes and create organizational display for library
13. Further decoration and organization of space

## Project Goals:

### Prevent Further Damage

Woodside's choral music library has roughly 1200 different pieces of music, with roughly 30 copies of each piece. Because of the previous storage habits, some copies of music have been damaged with rips, lost pages, and wrinkles. With the new storage boxes being implemented into the library, the sheet music has a clear, hard shell that will prevent future damage to the paper.

### Save Time When Looking for and Replacing Music

The previous organization of the library shelving made it difficult to find specific piece of music, leading the director and students to spend copious amounts of time looking for music, often leading to frustration and stress. With the new organizational system, each piece of music is placed in a box that is labeled with a number. Each sheet of music is recorded onto a mastersheet, with important information about the piece of music, such as the number of the box it is located in, making the search for music much quicker.

### Encourage Productivity

Based on an informal poll done with the choir students at Woodside, many of them expressed their lack of productivity while using the room to rehearse music and complete assignments. Much of the dissatisfaction with the practice room was due to the disorganization of the music in the room, making it cramped and distracting to students. With the boxes in place, the music shelving is much less distracting, and the sliding doors that housed the shelves are now able to fully close, where they were not able to before.



**Before**

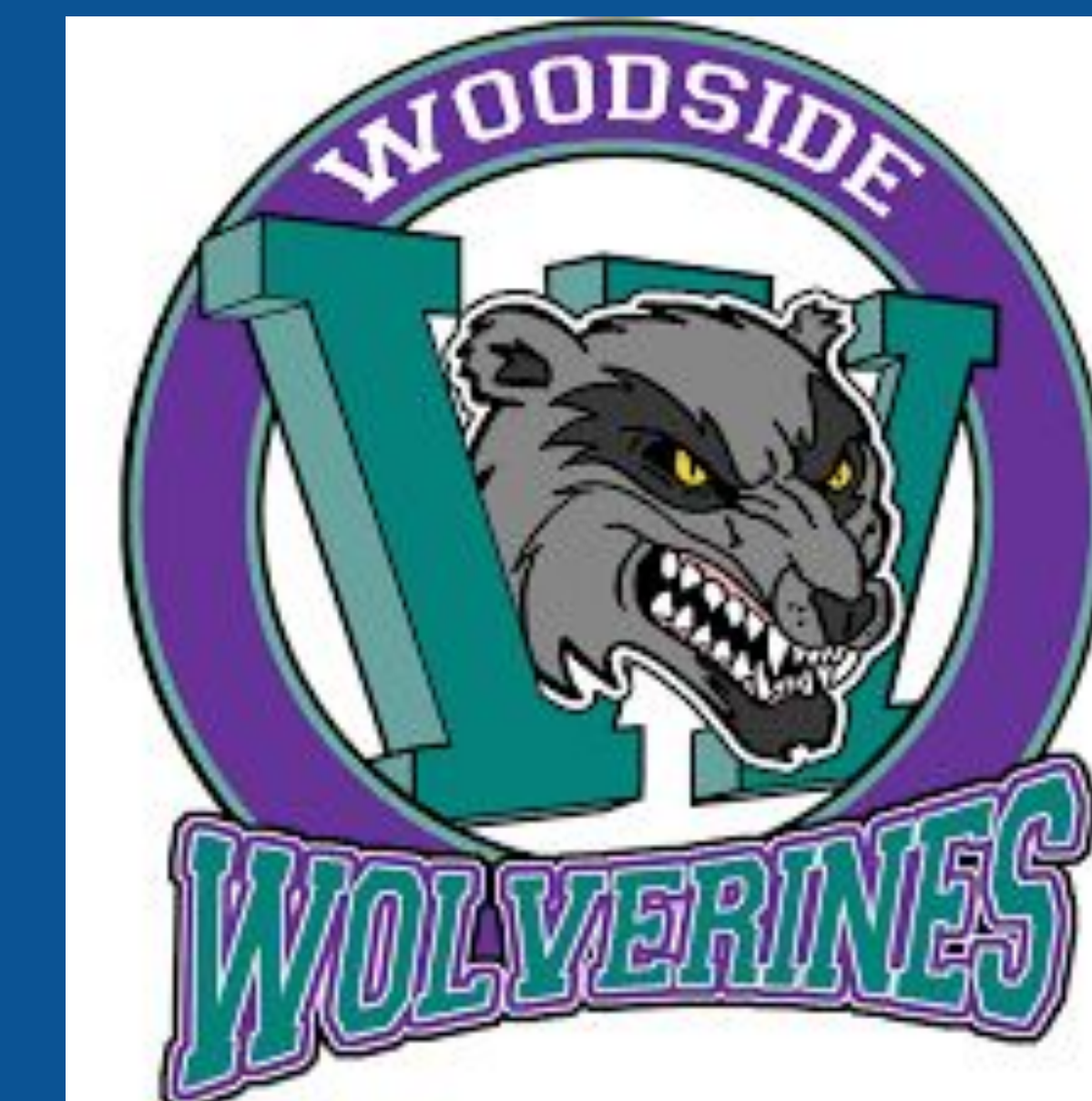


**After**

## Results:

Of the 30 copies of 1200 plus pieces in their collection, resulting in roughly 36,000 copies of music, we have been able to house 100 boxes of music, which equates to over two thirds of the collection.

With the help of students in the choral program, we have been able to organize and alphabetize all pieces of music, and have started our masterlist of every piece of music in the library, where we are finalizing information about the voicing, composition, arrangement, instrumentation, and amount of copies with each piece. We are also brainstorming ways to separate the music within boxes that would maintain the ease and neatness that the boxes supply. In the past, binder clips and rubber bands have not been successful, and would take up extra room within the boxes. We are currently looking into laminated bookworms that can easily be seen and relocated within the box as needed.



## Future Steps:

The steps necessary to continue this project would first be to obtain more boxes to house the rest of the music. Since the majority of the music has been housed, purchasing boxes for the rest would also cost a fraction of the price we initially spent in this project.

With the progress that was made so far, continuing would be far less daunting and much more achievable for a busy choir director with a tight budget. The process is fairly simple, also with a few trusted students, the completion of the music library is much more manageable than it was at the beginning of the school year.

## References:

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