

69th Annual Midwest Clinic

International Band and Orchestra Conference

Session Topic: Using Your Available Resources to Thrive and Survive

December 18, 2015 10:30 A.M.

Meeting Room W185

**Clinicians: John W. Wilkerson, Dr. Richard Montgomery,
Mike Walker and Brian York**

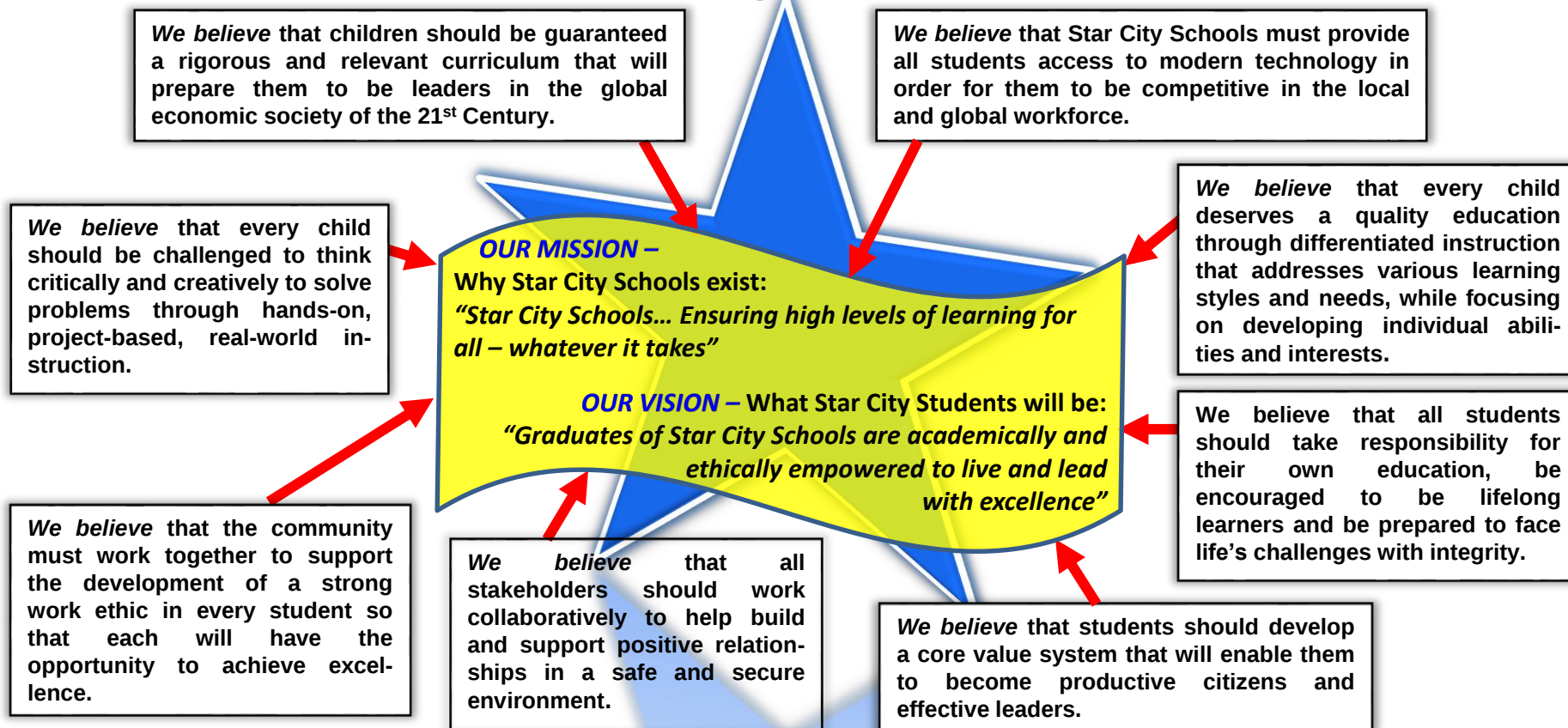
Star City School District, Star City, Arkansas

Home of the *Bulldog Regiment*



Star City School District

Foundation for Excellence



Star City School District Goals

1. Develop and sustain a professional learning community that focuses on learning as the work of the district and cultivates a culture of collaboration, interdependence, and collective responsibility for ensuring that all students learn at high levels.
2. Develop and sustain a rigorous and relevant K-12 curriculum that provides each student with project-based, real-world instruction/learning with emphasis on critical and creative thinking.
3. Each student will utilize modern technology to advance his/her own learning.
4. Each professional learning community will receive the necessary training and support to differentiate instruction.
5. Develop and provide avenues for all stakeholders to work collaboratively to assure a working partnership that supports clear, ethical expectations in a safe and secure environment.
6. Develop a district and community culture that promotes high expectations and accountability for life-long learning.



We believe that children should be **guaranteed** a **rigorous** and **relevant** curriculum that will prepare them to be leaders in the global economic society of the 21st Century.

Star City Schools must provide access to modern technology in order to be competitive in the local workforce.

We believe that every child deserves a quality education through differentiated instruction that addresses various learning styles and needs, while focusing on developing individual abilities and interests.

We believe that all students should take responsibility for their own education, be encouraged to be lifelong learners and be prepared to face life's challenges with integrity.

We believe that students should develop a core value system that will enable them to become productive citizens and effective leaders.

We believe that all stakeholders should work collaboratively to help build and support positive relationships in a safe and secure environment.

We believe that the community must work together to support the development of a strong work ethic in every student so that each will have the opportunity to achieve excellence.

OUR VISION – What Star City Students will be:
"Graduates of Star City Schools are academically and ethically empowered to live and lead with excellence"

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We believe that Star City Schools must provide all students access to modern technology in order for them to be competitive in the local and global workforce.

We believe that every child should be challenged to think critically and creatively to solve problems through hands-on, project-based, real-world instruction.

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We believe that students should develop the skills and knowledge necessary to become productive citizens and effective leaders.

OUR MISSION –
Why Star City Schools exist:
“Star City Schools... Ensuring high levels of learning for all – whatever it takes”

OUR VISION – What Star City Students will be:
“Graduates of Star City Schools are academically and ethically empowered to live and lead with excellence”

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OUR MISSION –

Why Star City Schools exist:

“Star City Schools... Ensuring high level learning for all – whatever it takes”

OUR VISION –

“Growth, innovation, and excellence for all”

We believe that

We believe that the district must work to ensure the development of the district

We believe that students have a responsibility for their own education, be encouraged to be lifelong learners and be prepared to face life's challenges with integrity.

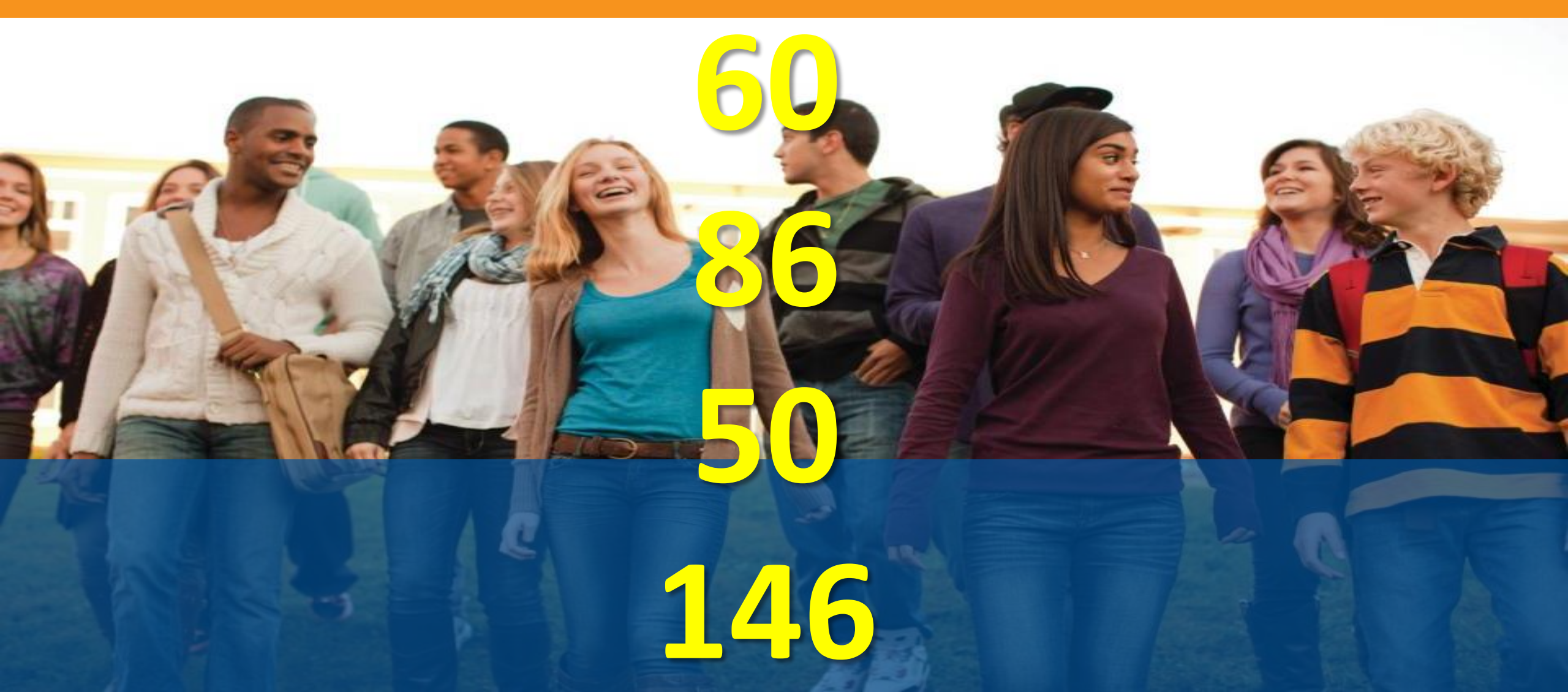
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Challenges

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60

86

50

146

3144



Star City, Arkansas – Small Community & Schools / Big Results

- City population: 2,400
- County population: 14,031
- Persons/square mile: 25.2
- School District Enrollment PK-12: 1,675 (declining)
- Poverty rate: 64%
- Rate of adults with Associates degree or higher: 13.45% (2nd lowest)
- Rate of adults with Bachelor's degree or higher: 9.2% (State 19.8%)
- Retail sales per capita: \$4,202 (State \$11,602)



ADMINISTRATIVE PHILOSOPHY

- The Superintendent's philosophy is aligned with the District “*Foundation for Excellence*” which defines the school's mission as “ensuring high levels of learning for all – whatever it takes”.
- Pertaining to the band/music education program this means that adequate resources are prioritized and made available to the end that students learn at high levels and perform with excellence.
- At the outset of rebuilding of our band program, adequacy required unprecedented expenditures for instruments, equipment, uniforms, a music library, and teaching personnel.
- Four years into the program adequacy entails substantially lower expenditures, yet a continued commitment to sustain the focus on learning/performance, as well as maintain the integrity of our investment in people and materiel.
- The principal's philosophy is to utilize all resources to do “whatever it takes” for all student programs to be successful. This includes the band program.



BAND DIRECTORS' PHILOSOPHY

- Administrators ensuring that the teachers have **common planning periods** to better collaborate
- **Open lines of communications** between teachers and administrators
- Planning and building toward growth in the band program *emanates* from the “*Foundation for Excellence*”/shared values and *permeates* all classrooms including band, instead of the vision for growth starting from the classroom and having to “convince” the administration
- **All aspects** are successful in performance quality, retention, and high levels of learning
- Understanding and getting involved in the **community** in which you teach
- To be the best we can be through **hard work, dedication and determination**
- Never put students in an embarrassing situation, **always be prepared**
- Have the bandroom open an hour and half before school every day and after school three days a week, for **student individual practice time**.



Star City Band Teaching Schedule

Period	York	Wilkerson
1	8 th Grade Guitar	PLAN
2	6 th Grade Woodwinds - Lead	6 th Grade Woodwinds - Assist
FOCUS		
3	PLAN	7 th Grade Woodwinds - Lead
4	8 th Grade Band - Lead	8 th Grade Band - Assist
5	PLC/Lunch	PLC/Lunch
6	7 th Grade Brass and Perc (Perc Focus)	7 th Grade Brass and Perc (Brass Focus)
7	6 th Grade Brass and Perc (Perc Focus)	6 th Grade Brass and Perc (Brass Focus)
8	HIGH SCHOOL BAND - Assist	HIGH SCHOOL BAND - Lead

Star City Band Program

A Model of Success!!

SCHEDULING IS THE KEY!

- **So many different “electives” for students to choose from**
 - **EAST, Robotics, Flight and Space, Design and Modeling, PE, Athletics, Art, Spanish, Medical Sciences, CHOIR, BAND**
- **Students are pulled in so many different directions, that we need to make it EASY for them to choose band!!**

**KIDS ARE NOT USED TO MAKING
AN “EITHER/OR” DECISION**



Star City Band Program

A Model of Success!!

SCHEDULING IS THE KEY!

- **100% of Students** will take either Band or Chorus for 3 semesters – 6th Grade and Fall Semester of 7th Grade. This is a local policy that exceeds state standards.
- Viewpoint is that “music without performance misses the point”!
- We have 3 semesters to SHOW SUCCESS and GET THEM HOOKED!



Star City Band Program

A Model of Success!!

- **Focus is on RETENTION, and the growth of our program is built on a firm foundation of EXPECTATIONS that resonate across the curriculum.**
- **An EXPECTATION of Excellence from the School and District level administration, with the support to back it up!**
- **A Superior level of performance quality is the EXPECTATION for the band program is essential to the success of the program**



Star City Band Program

A Model of Success!!

- Band is viewed as a 7-year course of study with a seamless transition from middle school into high school.
- From Day 1 of 6th grade beginning band night we are talking “College Auditions” and thinking “High School Instrumentation”



Leveraging the shrinking “pie”

- Slice it based on priorities – *“Foundation for Excellence”*
- Control human resource costs – *Creative budget coding/staffing*
 1. Attrition – *“Do we really need to fill this position?”*
 2. Budget – *revenue streams*
 - a. **NSLA** – Consistently \$500,000/year received (**over \$175,000 allotted to PLTW**)
 - i. Three of seven PLTW teachers are partially or completely funded through NSLA
 - ii. Justification
 1. Highly trained/qualified
 2. Teach PLTW courses which exceed the State Curriculum Standards
 3. Open enrollment and gives all students access to problem/project based learning
 - b. **Title I** – Elementary PLTW master teacher/trainer is funded with Title I monies to provide support, embedded professional development to classroom teachers on PLTW modules, coordinate the school’s math/science intervention program, model, train, and co-teach. Materials and supplies are also purchased “to enhance project-based learning, critical thinking, real-world problem solving in a way that will engage and promote student interest in STEM. **Total allocated to elementary PLTW – \$84,000**



Managing-Nurturing Available Resources

- **Personnel** – The hiring of personal who match the needs of the band program and are philosophically aligned with the district “Foundation” 
- **Funding** – Establishing the financial needs of the program. Working with school administration to find the necessary funding for the band. Example - The purchase of new music can be considered the “textbook”. Ask for textbook money to be allocated to band. 
- **Long-Term Planning** – The Director of Bands for the district works with the superintendent and business manager to develop and operate within an annual budget approved by the Board of Education. “Big picture” collaboration is ongoing regarding long-range planning, student recruitment/retention, program growth projections, and curricular development/offerings. 
- **Parental Involvement** - The band boosters’ organization has grown in membership and resources. Much support (financial and “helping hands”) is given to the band program. Numerous financial sponsorships and donations have benefited students. Donations of time and labor for band projects and functions have also contributed to band success. 
- **Community involvement** – significant increase in concert attendance, as well as invitations to perform at community events. There is a growing sense of community pride in the band... **and** 

... more resources:

- **Corporate Educational Partnerships** - All music manufacturers have programs set up to help the local band program purchase new or slightly used instruments.
 - At Star City we partner with Jupiter, Mapex, Majestic, Evans, Arkansas School Band Service.
 - Corporate partnerships have saved the district over \$180,000 in instrument purchases over the last four years.

- **Community Resources** – Local business have partnered with the band program and school for goods and or services. For instance local hardware store opened an account for booster program to pay off once a month. Local pizza restaurant discounts products for the school and band program.

- **Adjunct instructors are key resources.**
 - **Community/area residents** -- For instance Star City resident Mr. Garry Henson, former lead trumpet with the Stan Kenton Orchestra, is a resource.
 - **District teachers/staff** -- Ms. Reagan Haynes, a colligate dancer and former dance company teacher, works with our Colorguard in movement. Mr. Andrew Hackett, social studies teacher, is a former lead alto at the University of Arkansas of Monticello and works with our woodwinds players as needed.
 - **Outside instructors** -- Mr. Scott Bush, former member of the Pride of Cincinnati, works with our Colorguard program. Local college students are hired to help out with the band program for private lessons and summer camps.

... and finally... 

➤ *Performance* –

Get out into the community and perform, perform, perform!

- ✓ **Show** your results!
- ✓ **Share** your results!
- ✓ **Celebrate** your results!



Small Community: Big Results/Performance

Results	ASBOA Marching	ASBOA Concert	ASBOA Sight- reading	ASBOA Sweepstakes	Regional Solo & Ensemble	Champs at the Rock
YEAR 2 (2013-2014)						
Middle School (7/8)	n/a	1 * (superior)	2 * (excellent)	n/a	Included Below	n/a
6-12 Grades	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	74 Superior 8 Excellent	n/a
High School	Did not perform	Did not perform	Did not perform	n/a	Included Above	1st Exhibition Performance

***First Middle School Band in history of school to perform at ASBOA**



Small Community: Big Results/Performance

Results	ASBOA Marching	ASBOA Concert	ASBOA Sight- reading	ASBOA Sweepstakes	Regional Solo & Ensemble	Champs at the Rock
YEAR 3 (2014-2015)						
Middle School (7)	n/a	2 (excellent)	1 (superior)	n/a	Included in 6-12	n/a
Middle School (8)	n/a	2 (excellent)	1 (superior)	n/a	Included in 6-12	n/a
6-12 Grades	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	93 Superior 12 Excellent	n/a
High School	Straight Superior 1st time in 28 years	1 (superior)	1 (superior)	1st Sweepstakes in 29 years	Included in 6-12	Class D Grand Champions 

Small Community: Big Results/Performance

Results	ASBOA Marching	ASBOA Concert	ASBOA Sight- reading	ASBOA Sweepstakes	Regional Solo & Ensemble	Champs at the Rock
YEAR 4 (2015-to-date)						
High School	Straight 1's Superior					2 nd Overall Class D Best in Class, Colorguard, Percussion, and Visual Performance
Star City School District awarded 2015 NAMM Foundation “Best Communities for Music Education” Designation						



12➡



2014-15



2015-16



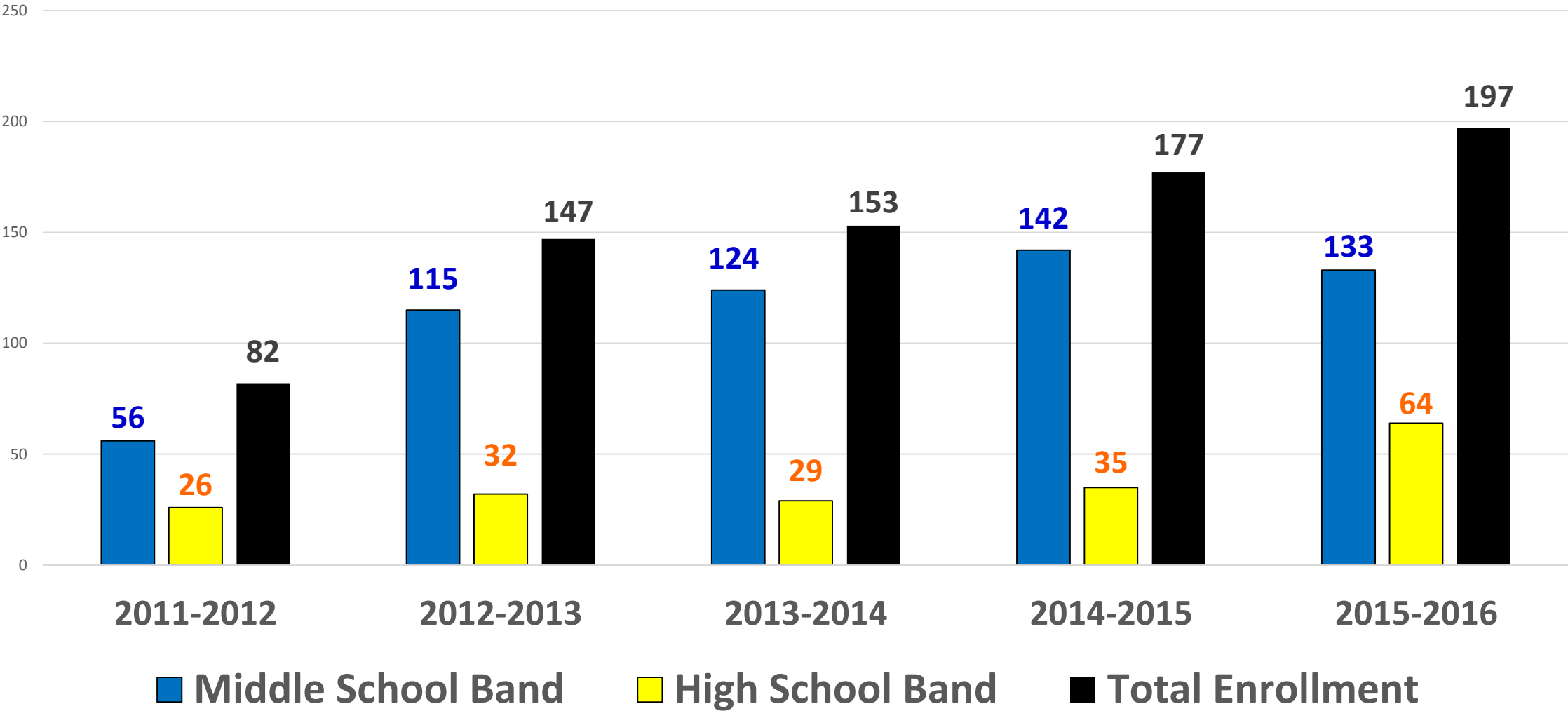
Small Community: Big Results/High Retention

BAND	2014-15 Enrollment	2015-16 Enrollment	Retention Rate
8th Grade	44		
Freshmen	19	33	75%
Sophomores	10	17	89%
Juniors	7	7	70%
Seniors		5	71%



Small Community, Big Results: Consistent Growth

Five Year Picture



Foundation

Resources

***Unified
Commitment***

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Collaboration

Well-framed Context



Foundation

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**Unified
Commitment**

Well-framed Context

RESULTS!

Performance



SHOW



SHARE



CELEBRATE



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE AND INTEREST!

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