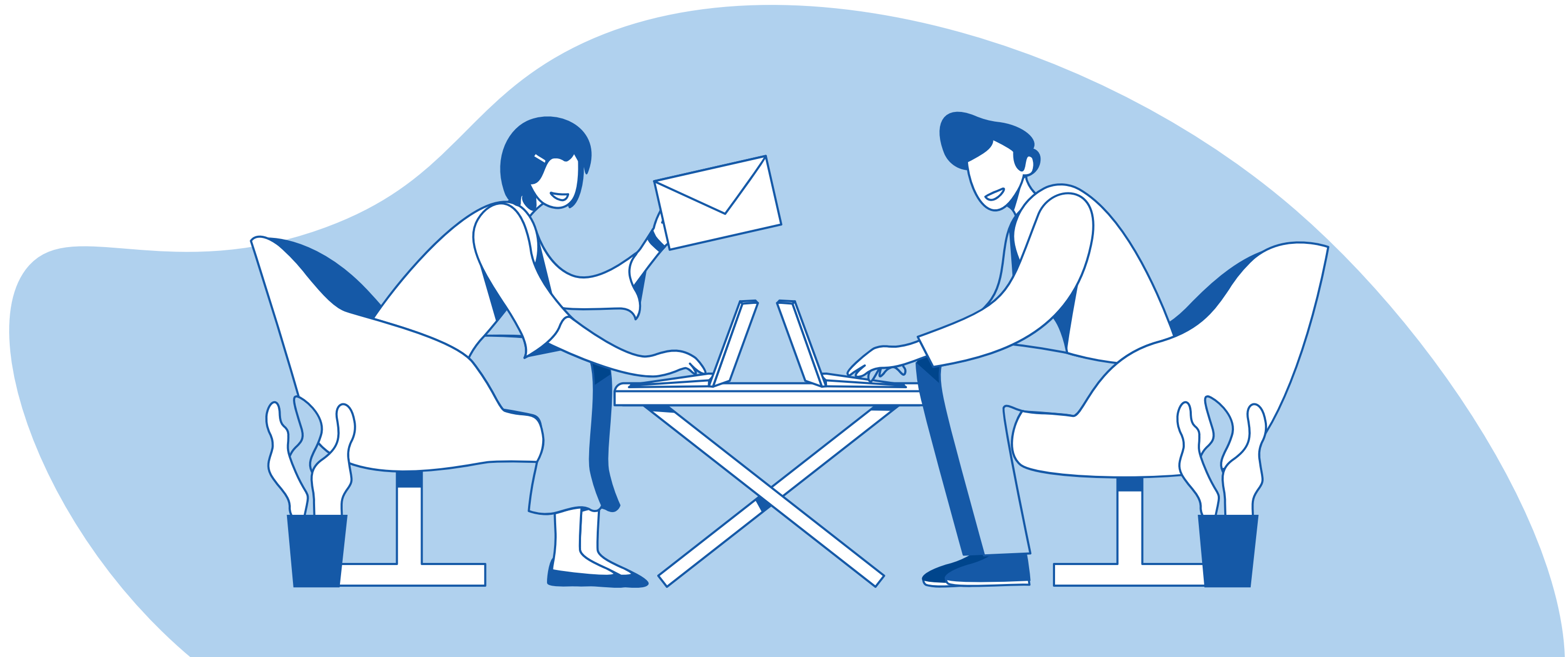


WHY CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?

ESTABLISHING SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAMS



OUR BACKGROUND

GRASSLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL
FRANKLIN, TN

SUSAN ABELL, ORCHESTRA
YEAR 10

NICK BLUE, BAND
YEAR 5

KEVIN JANKOWSKI (CURRENT)
MIKE CHIODO (RETIRED)



*"THE BAND/ORCHESTRA
DIRECTOR AT MY SCHOOL
WON'T WORK WITH ME."*

*"MY STUDENTS THINK
BAND IS BETTER
THAN ORCHESTRA"*

MYTH-BUSTING

***"I WILL
LOSE MY
JOB IF I
DON'T
ADVOCATE
SOLEY
FOR
MY
PROGRAM."***

*"IF WE RECRUIT TOGETHER
THE OTHER PROGRAM WILL
STEAL MY STUDENTS."*

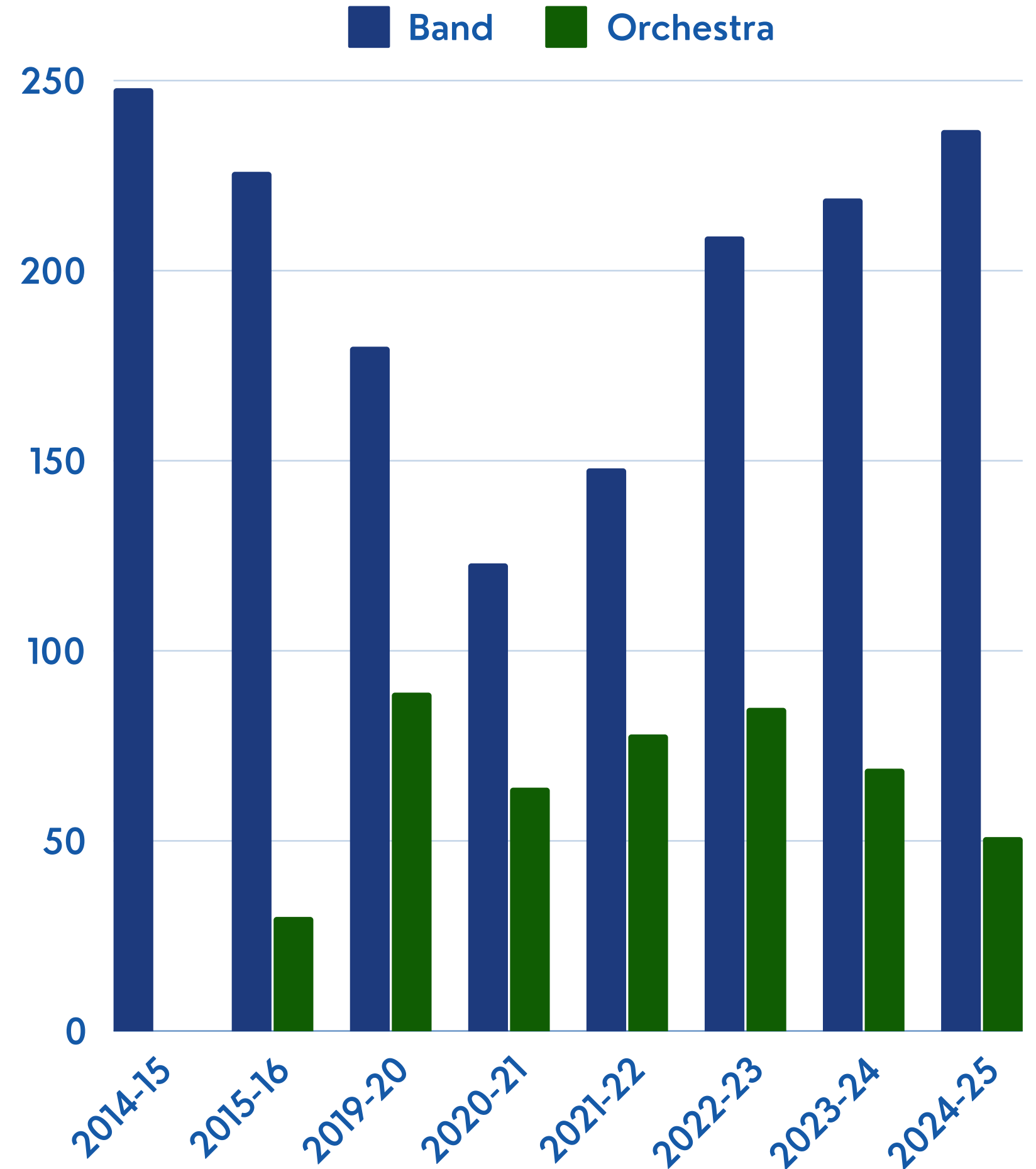
“

**STUDENTS ARE HAPPIER AND
MORE MOTIVATED, OUR
ENSEMBLES ARE HEALTHIER AND
SOUND BETTER, AND OUR
RETENTION RATES ARE HIGH.**

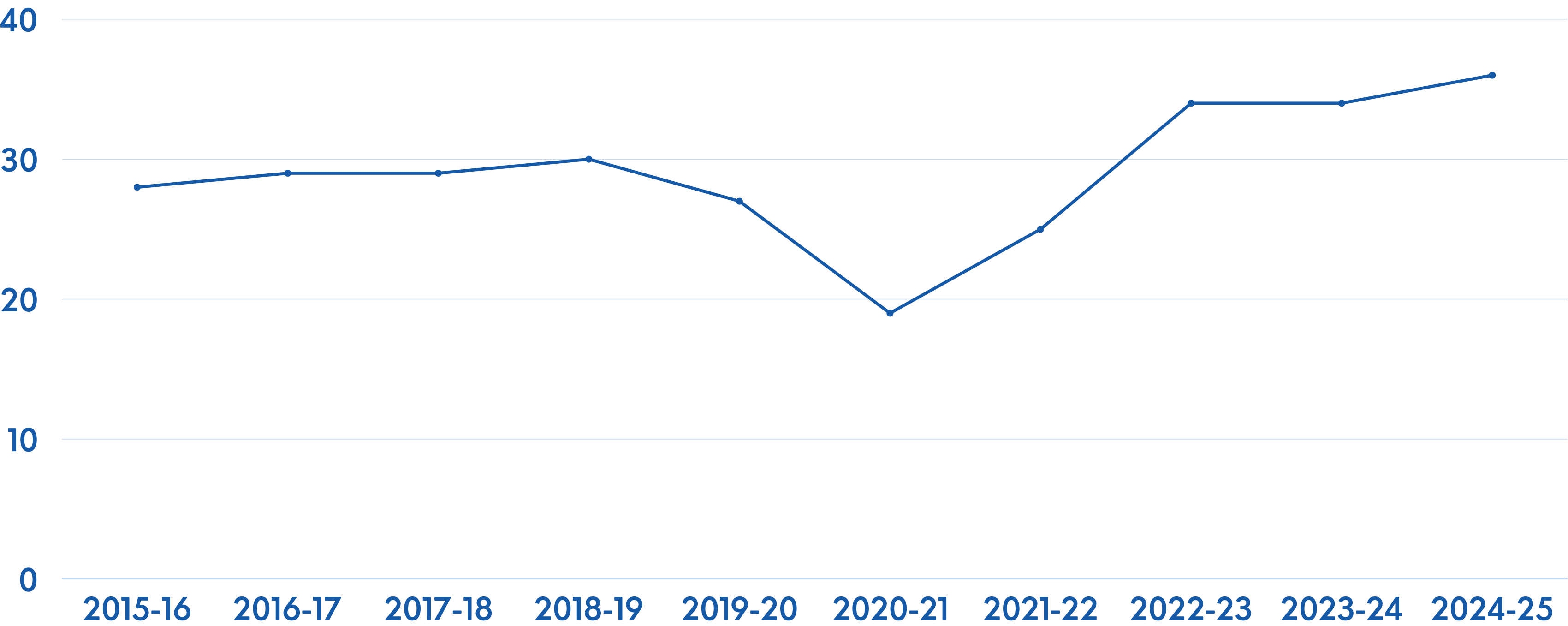
PROGRAM GROWTH

BAND AND ORCHESTRA
NUMBERS HAVE INCREASED
SINCE WE HAVE IMPLEMENTED
OUR APPROACH

INTRODUCTION OF THE
ORCHESTRA PROGRAM DID
NOT SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACT
THE BAND'S NUMBERS



PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOL POPULATION ENROLLED IN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

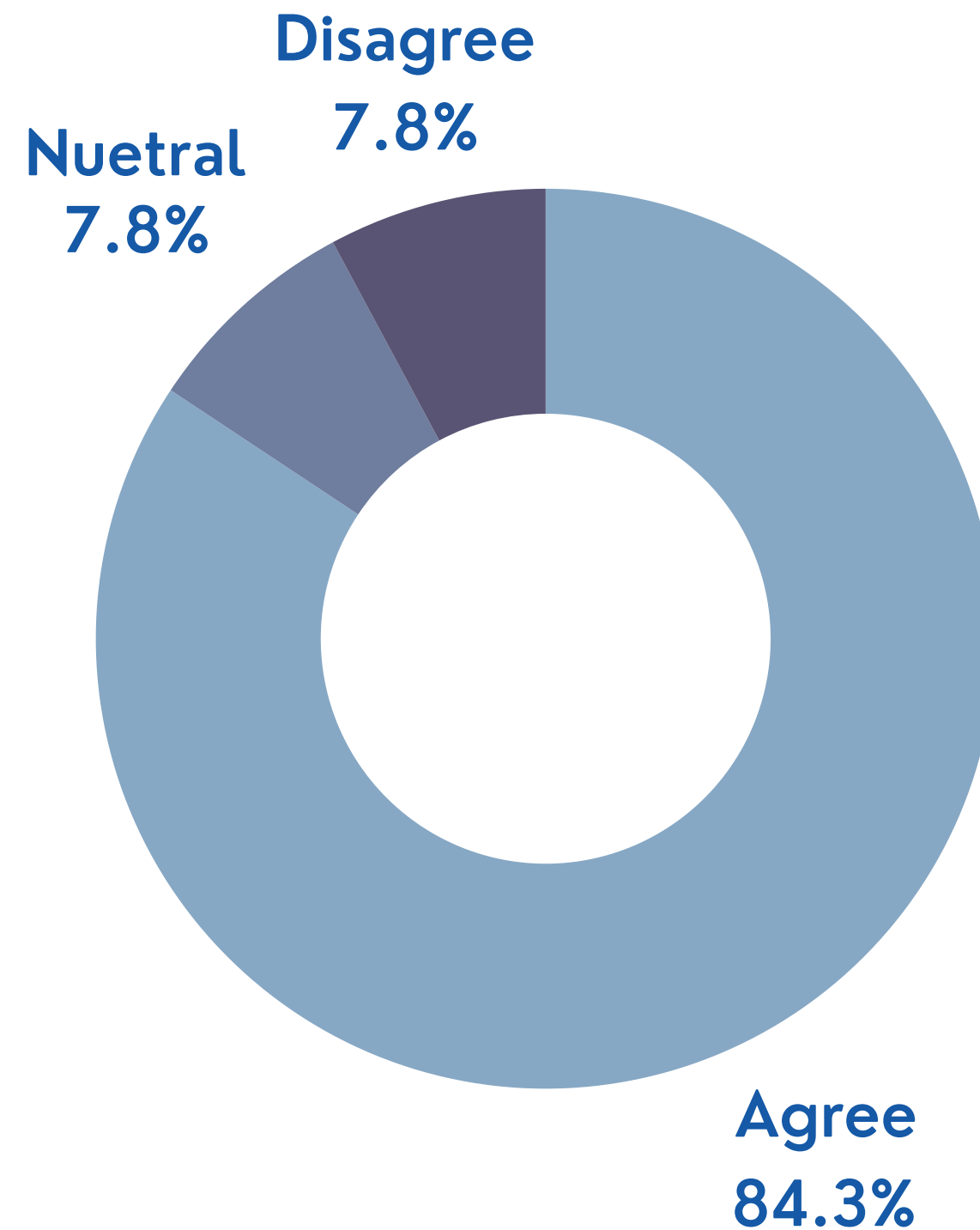


SURVEY DATA

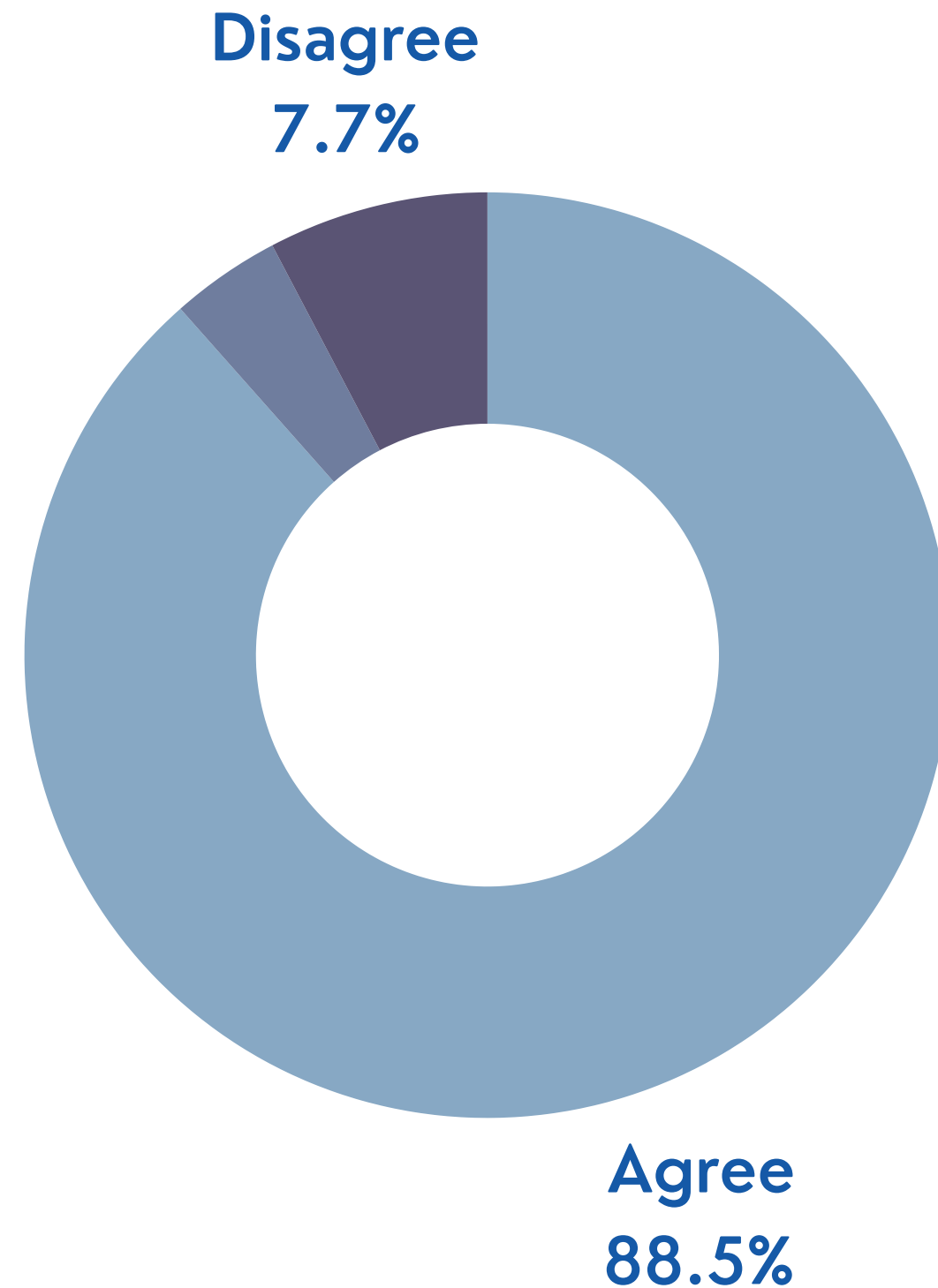
- 52 TOTAL RESPONSES
- 20 BAND DIRECTORS, 31 ORCHESTRA DIRECTORS, 1 BAND/ORCHESTRA
- 22 STATES REPRESENTED

**NO CORRELATION
BETWEEN WHAT YOU
TEACH AND YOUR
PERCEPTION OF
YOUR COLLEAGUE**

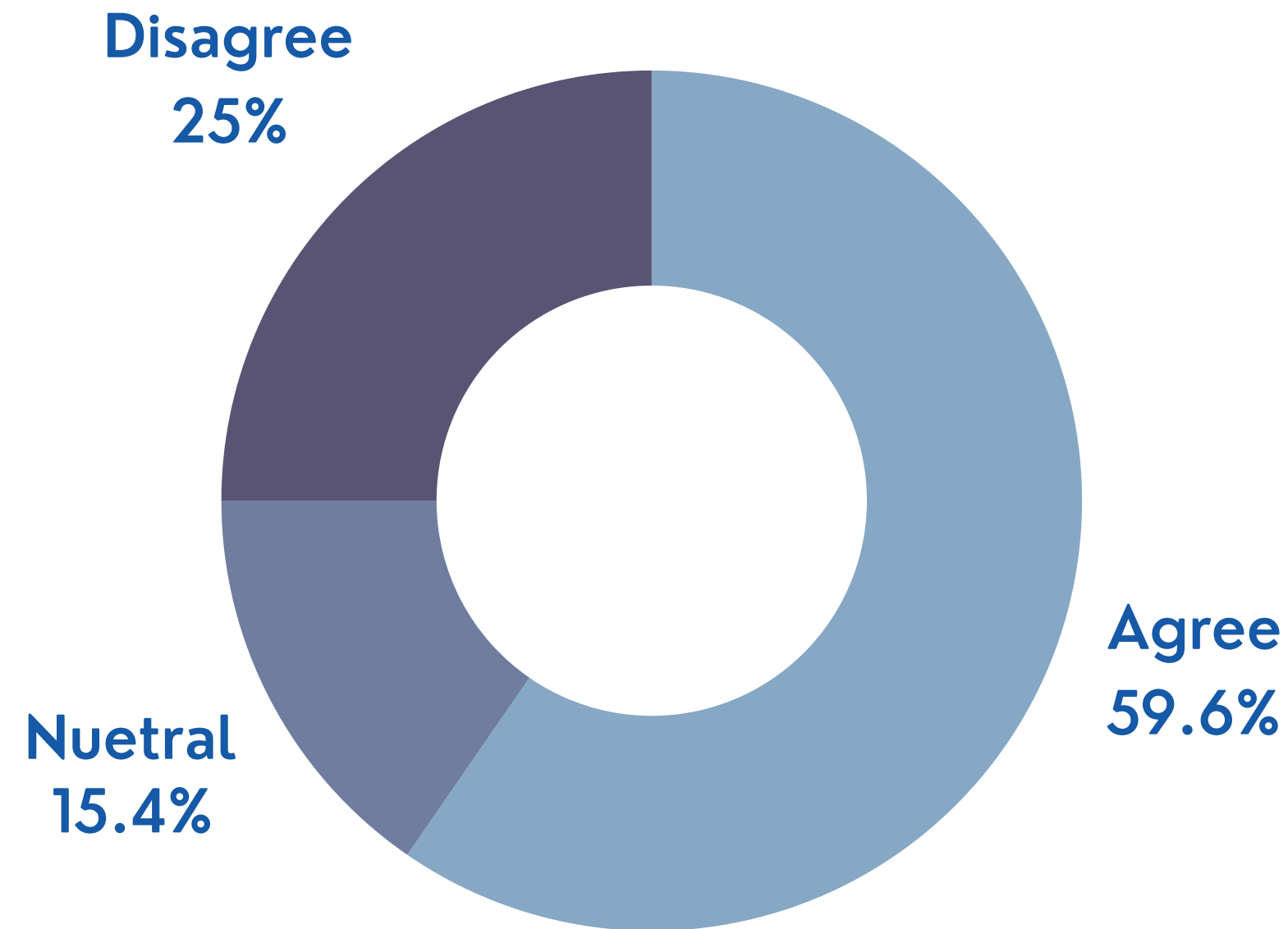
"ME AND MY INSTRUMENTAL COLLEAGUE ARE A TEAM AND WE ENJOY WORKING TOGETHER"



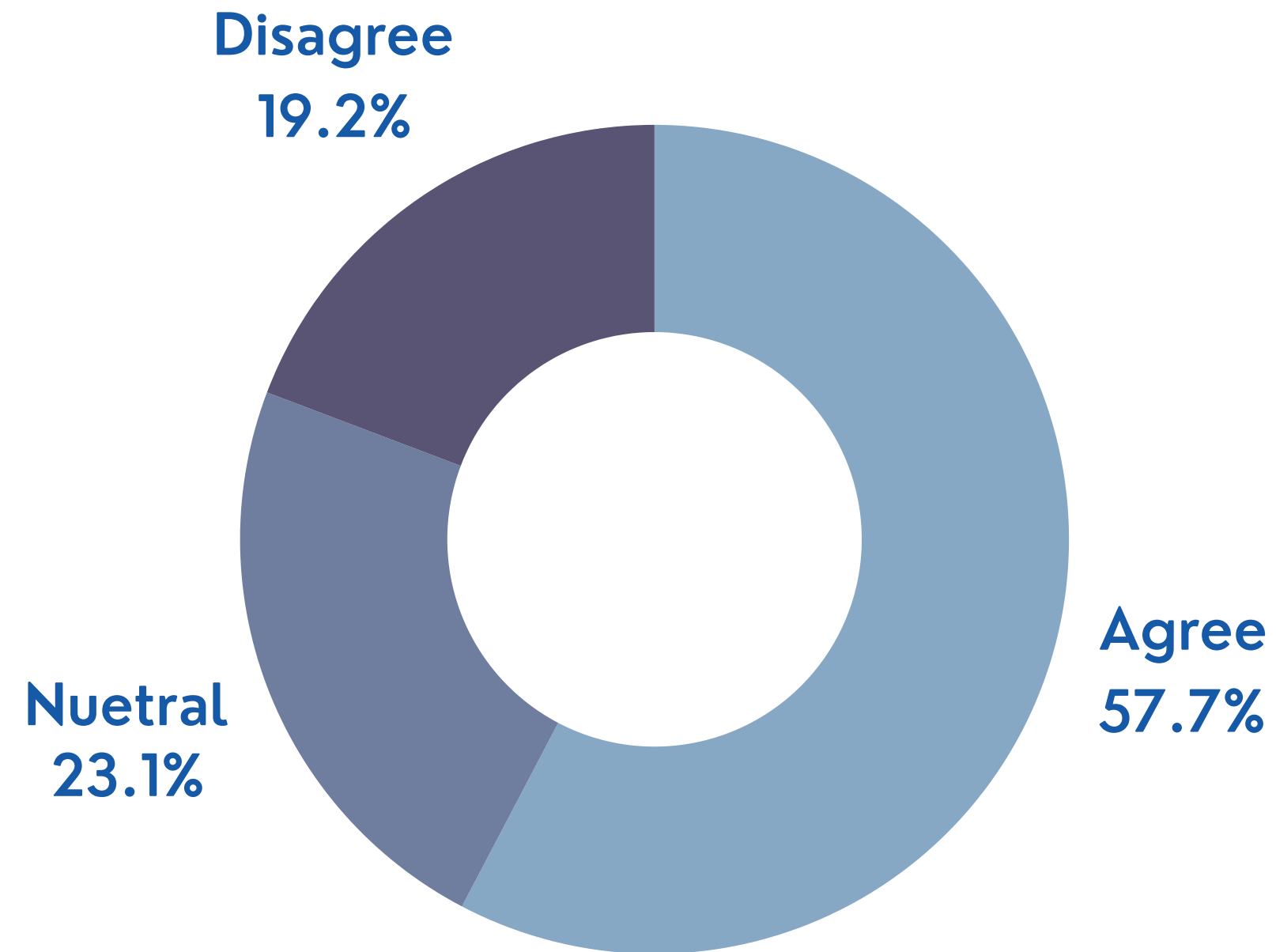
"MY INSTRUMENTAL COLLEAGUE WANTS MY PROGRAM AND STUDENTS TO SUCCEED."



"RECRUITMENT PRESENTATIONS FOR BOTH PROGRAMS OCCUR TOGETHER WITH EQUAL WEIGHT PLACED UPON BOTH PROGRAMS."



"MY INSTRUMENTAL COLLEAGUE ATTENDS MY CONCERTS."



IMPROVED ENSEMBLE CULTURE



HAPPIER STUDENTS

STUDENTS KNOW THEY HAVE MULTIPLE TEACHERS SUPPORTING THEM AND ARE MORE MOTIVATED TO WORK HARD

STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS

STUDENTS INTERACT WITH OTHER MUSIC STUDENTS AND TEACHERS, NOT JUST THOSE IN THEIR OWN PROGRAM

BETTER ATTITUDES

STUDENTS KNOW THAT THEY ARE NOT "BETTER" THAN OTHER MUSIC STUDENTS SIMPLY BECAUSE OF THE INSTRUMENT THEY PLAY

INCREASED PRESENCE, STRONGER VOICE

1

**UNITED VOICES ARE
STRONGER THAN DIVIDED
OPINIONS**

2

**GREATER SEAT AT THE
TABLE FOR IMPORTANT
DECISIONS**

3

**IMPROVED ATTITUDES AND
PERCEPTIONS FROM
COMMUNITY AND FACULTY**

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

01

**INTENTIONAL
COLLABORATION**

02

**PRESENT A
UNITED FRONT**

03

BE VISIBLE

04

**DON'T
OVERTHINK IT**

INTENTIONAL COLLABORATION



SMALL STEPS BEFORE BIG LEAPS

- DEVELOPING COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIPS TAKES TIME
- HELP EACH OTHER WITH SIMPLE TASKS FIRST BEFORE TACKLING BIGGER IDEAS

COMMON PLANNING TIME

- ESTABLISH A VISION FOR BOTH PROGRAMS AND SET GOALS
- GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER AS PEOPLE, NOT JUST AS EDUCATORS

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

- FIND OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTH GROUPS TO PERFORM, SEPARATELY OR TOGETHER
 - ASSEMBLIES, GRADUATIONS, ETC.

PRESENT A UNITED FRONT



JOIN MUSIC AT GMS!

Why Music?

- Music groups are a family! Music ensembles make up the largest student group at GMS! Being part of a community is a great asset when transitioning to a new school.
- Playing an instrument and singing have a positive impact. Music can reduce stress, cultivate creativity and develop problem solving skills.
- We have a lot of fun! Your child will have a variety of unique opportunities, creating memories that will last a lifetime!

**We would love for your child to join us in:
Band, Choir or Orchestra!**

Questions? Email:
Band: nicholas.blue@wcs.edu
Orchestra/Choir: susan.abell@wcs.edu

LEARN MORE!

SIGN UP HERE!

UNITED RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

- RECRUITMENT EFFORTS MUST OCCUR TOGETHER WITH EQUAL WEIGHT PLACED ON BOTH PROGRAMS
- HELP PARENTS AND STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THAT WE WANT CHILDREN TO BE IN THE ENSEMBLE THAT IS BEST FOR THEM

MUTUAL ADVOCACY

- BE A CHAMPION OF MUSIC AT YOUR SCHOOL, NOT JUST YOUR PROGRAM
- STUDENTS AND PARENTS CAN SENSE ATTITUDES OF TEAM WORK, AND ATTITUDES OF COMBATANCY

REPAIR HARMFUL CULTURES

- MUSIC IS FOR EVERYONE AND EVERYONE IS ON THE SAME TEAM AND IN THE SAME BOAT!
- UNITED CULTURE WILL INCREASE INTEREST, RETENTION AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

BE VISIBLE



ATTEND THEIR CONCERTS

CHEER EACH OTHER ON AND
HELP WITH SET UP/TEAR DOWN

SUPPORT ALL MUSIC STUDENTS,
NOT JUST YOUR OWN



POP IN TO REHEARSALS

SAY HELLO TO STUDENTS AND
PROVIDE RELEVANT FEEDBACK

STUDENTS WILL SEE THEY ARE
CARED FOR REGARDLESS OF
THE ENSEMBLE THEY ARE IN



ATTEND SCHOOL FUNCTIONS

OPEN HOUSES, ACTIVITY FAIRS,
SPORTING EVENTS,
ORIENTATIONS, ASSEMBLIES,
GRADUATIONS...!

DON'T OVERTHINK!

BE FRIENDLY!

BE YOURSELF!

CHECK YOURSELF AND ASSUME THE
BEST

BE WILLING TO HAVE A RESTORATIVE
OR CLARIFYING CONVERSATION



SIMPSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

- EVERYTHING IS DONE TOGETHER!
 - ALL MERCH IS SIMPSON MUSIC DEPARTMENT
 - STUDENTS ARE ABLE TO BE PART OF ONE INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE AND CHORUS
 - FOCUS ON INSTRUMENT SELECTION
 - INSTRUMENT TEST DRIVE NIGHT
 - ROTATE THROUGH ALL MUSIC CLASSES
 - INTENTIONALLY ATTEND EACH OTHER'S CONCERTS
 - 8TH GRADE TRIP FOR ALL MUSIC STUDENTS
- STATS FOR 2024-2025:
 - TOTAL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: **885**
 - 6TH GRADE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT: **291**
 - 6TH GRADE STUDENTS IN MUSIC: **279**
 - 7TH GRADE STUDENTS IN MUSIC: **254**
 - 8TH GRADE STUDENTS IN MUSIC: **194**
 - RETENTION RATE FROM 6TH-8TH: **60-80%**
 - DEPENDING ON DOUBLERS/HS CREDIT COURSES



THANK YOU!



NICK BLUE - NICHOLAS.BLUE@WCS.EDU



SUSAN ABELL - SUSAN.ABELL@WCS.EDU