

# AVOCA SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 37

ESTABLISHED 1870

2921 Illinois Road  
Wilmette, IL 60091


www.avoca37.org  
847•251•3587  
847•251•7742 Fax



Kevin Jauch, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

April 6, 2017

**TO:** Avoca Board of Education

**FROM:** Kevin Jauch, Ed.D.   
Superintendent

**RE:** Avoca 37 and Wilmette 39 Band Partnership

**CC:** Avoca Band Parents  
Kim Farris  
Jessica Hutchison  
Matt Palcer  
Mary Rudzinski

---

As you are already aware Wilmette School District 39 has been discussing changing the start time for Wilmette Junior High School (WJHS) for the last several months. Kim Farris, the band instructor who is employed by D39 and shared with Avoca, and I began discussing the impact this time change would have on our students back in February.

At District 39's Board of Education meeting on Monday, April 3, they approved moving the start time of WJHS back 25 minutes, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:25 a.m. for the 2017-2018 school year.

Currently the six students from Marie Murphy who participate in the band program at WJHS practice with the full band every morning, Monday through Friday, from 7:15 a.m. to 7:55 a.m., at which time they are bussed back to Marie Murphy School, arriving at the school between 8:00 and 8:05 a.m. typically. The children are usually seated in their first period classrooms between 8:10 and 8:15 a.m.

Though the MM band students receive their lessons at MM during the school day, the real benefit from joining the morning rehearsals at WJHS is participating in a full band experience. Due to our size and time limitations, only three instruments are played by our band students: clarinet, trombone and trumpet.

The change in start time at WJHS changes their morning band rehearsal to 7:40 a.m.-8:20 a.m. If our students tried to participate in that program they would realistically miss the first 45 minutes of their first period class everyday. All three grades at MM have an academic core class to start the day. This is truly not an option, and is not being considered.

Mrs. Farris and I have met on several occasions and communicated via email to try to identify opportunities for the MM band students to have a full band experience. None of the options are as good as what they have currently, but we are hopeful that the children will be able to experience a full band on occasion over the course of the school year.

*"The Mission of the Avoca School District  
is to maximize the unique potential  
of each child we serve."*

**Avoca West School**  
235 Beech Drive Glensview, IL 60025  
847•724•6800

**Marie Murphy School**  
2921 Illinois Road Wilmette, IL 60091  
847•251•3617

# AVOCA SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 37

ESTABLISHED 1870

2921 Illinois Road  
Wilmette, IL 60091

www.avoca37.org  
847•251•3587  
847•251•7742 Fax



Kevin Jauch, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Option 1: WJHS hosts two concerts each year. For the 2-3 weeks preceding those concerts, allow the MM band students to participate in 2-3 full practices, and arrive late for first period. It would be essential that the children be in good standing in the classes that they would be missing.

Option 2: MM students create their own small band. Currently there are six students from MM in the program; all are 7<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. There are seven 5<sup>th</sup> graders in band right now. If no students drop the program, there would be 13 children playing three instruments.

Option 3: In March I reached out to the other New Trier sender districts and found out that Sunset Ridge also has a band that offers morning practices. Unfortunately, those are not full band rehearsals, but sectionals. Mrs. Farris and the band teacher at SSR are currently investigating the potential for a partnership of some sort that could be just between our two districts or possibly even all three.

Option 4: Investigate the potential to have the MM band students participate in rehearsals with the MM orchestra.

As I stated earlier, none of these options is as fulfilling from a whole band experience standpoint as the current program that has been in place for approximately 20 years. We will continue to investigate opportunities for our students. A combination of options is also being considered.

Within the next few weeks, Mrs. Farris and I plan to host a meeting with Avoca's band parents to discuss our options.

**Avoca West School**

235 Beech Drive Glenview, IL 60025  
847•724•6800

*"The Mission of the Avoca School District  
is to maximize the unique potential  
of each child we serve."*

**Marie Murphy School**

2921 Illinois Road Wilmette, IL 60091  
847•251•3617