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Success at the School of Arts and Communication

Spend just a few minutes with Bayshore High School (BHS) band teacher Paul Champagne and you'll walk away a believer in the power of Smaller Learning Communities (SLCs). As lead teacher for the BHS School of Arts and Communication, Paul is the perfect example of what makes SLCs so successful.

"We all work together here at Bayshore High. We have a strong sense of family and a strong sense of community," Paul stated. "We have the best students in our school, excellent teachers, and supportive administration. It's really about the people."

Paul has been shaping and growing the School of Arts and Communications for eight years. "We are constantly striving towards tailoring education to meet the students' needs and to make education more meaningful," he said. "Our teachers teach to their strengths and talents. They collaborate and develop cross-curricular activities. For example, the *Arts Down Under* assignment, based on the book *Songlines* by Bruce Chatwin, collectively covered music, drumming, orchestra, dancing, chorus, Aboriginal artwork, and drama skits.

Paul teaches Beginning Band, Marching Band, Jazz Band, Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Piano Lab. Lynne Hodalski teaches Chorus and the Rap Stomp class. Students are experiencing the technology of music as well, and recently began producing music in their own recording studio where they work with the Avid Pro Tools recording and editing program. They also use SmartMusic, an interactive music software tool for ban orchestra, and voice. SmartMusic allows teachers to create music assignments, which students practice by recording their piece using a computer and then gaining instant feedback on their performance.

The discipline of music teaches employability skills and helps students stay in school. "We have a broad range of students who are learning work ethic, stamina, dedication, discipline, time management, responsibility, accountability, and team work," Paul shared. "They are learning values that will serve them well as they pursue their education and careers. By providing students with a strong sense of continuity and community, they develop a connectedness to school. Research shows that students who feel connected have improved scores on standardized testing and less absenteeism and dropout rates."

BHS senior Charlie Fandale began his musical career playing the clarinet at The Boys Club while in 5th grade. Seven years later he is the drum major, or conductor of the BHS marching band, having earned the top student position. "Music gives me things to do outside of school," Charlie shared. "It's a great release from academic pressure."

"I'm a member of the marching, jazz, and concert bands," he continued. "I play the alto sax, baritone sax, guitar, keyboard, and drums. This year I am dual enrolled with early admission at State College of Florida and in one more semester I will have completed my associate's degree." After graduation, Charlie plans to pursue a degree in music performance at the University of Central Florida or Florida State University, or possibly join the Navy. Either way, he is well prepared for a career with solid arts and communication skills, a strong work ethic, leadership qualities, and experience.



BHS School of Arts and Communication teacher Mr. Richard Jorgenson and his seventh period Orchestra class working on a piece by Bach.



BHS School of Arts and Communication teacher Mr. Paul Champagne with talented senior Charlie Fandale.

JOBS



Arts, Design, and Entertainment Occupations
Salary: \$24,800 – \$58,900*
Workplace: studios, venues, festivals
Hours: varies



Music Directors and Composers
Salary: \$16,000 – \$54,100*
Workplace: theater, performance venues, studios
Hours: varies



Sound Engineering Technicians
Salary: \$27,300 – \$44,200*
Workplace: theater, performance venues, studios
Hours: varies



The BHS School of Arts and Communication provides a real-world, academically integrated arts experience which enables students to develop their creative talents, reach a deeper understanding of the curriculum, and expand their horizons beyond high school.

Salary data:
 *Based on the Florida Research & Economic Database (FRED) annual wage or salary survey data for 2010 in Workforce Region 18.

PARENT CORNER

- Discussion starter: if your child attends a high school in Manatee County, they are part of a smaller learning community (SLC) or "school within a school." Talk to your student about their SLC, their major, and what career-based classes they are taking.
- Deciding on a career path can be a scary thing for high school students. Help your child navigate the next few years by exposing them to as many career ideas as possible through everyday conversations.
- "Kids should have the opportunity to express themselves." Mr. Paul Champagne, lead teacher for Bayshore High's School of Arts and Communication." For further information, contact BHS Career Advisor Laura Roberts at 941-751-7004, ext. 2010.

FCAT reading comprehension QUESTION

★ What software tools are used by some BHS music and band students? For what purpose?

Answer: Avid Pro Tools (music recording, editing, and production) and SmartMusic (practicing and feedback).

What's on the WEB?

- www.smartmusic.com
- www.avid.com
- www.manatee.k12.fl.us/sites/highschool/bayshore