

**BELMONT SCHOOL CURRICULAR SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**REMOTE MEETING**  
**JANUARY 15, 2021**

Attendees: Evelyn Gomez  
Catherine Bowen  
Tara Donner  
Janice Darias  
Arto Asadoorian

Meeting called to order at 3:10

The group discussed the potential to add an agenda item of google classroom assignment-tracking and gradebooks to a future agenda, recognizing that a comprehensive system change for Plus Portals would not be feasible this year, but information on current methods and efficacy of these systems would be beneficial for students, teachers, and parents.

Arto Asadoorian presented the Music course proposal, "Modern Band," a full year, 5.0 credit course for College Prep or Honors credit and open to all high school grade levels. Arto reviewed the breadth of the course: Modern Band utilizes popular music as its central curriculum for composition, performance, and improvisation. Styles studied include rock, pop, reggae, hip-hop, rhythm & blues, electronic dance music, and other contemporary styles as they emerge. Musical instruments include but are not limited to: guitar, bass, drums, piano, voice, and technology. The course would enable students to have the experience of collaboration and listening for group performance, as with common popular musical groups.

American popular music is a wide-ranging class of music that takes its influence from a variety of other musical genres, cultures and American experiences. While this music is often incorporated into performances by "traditional" ensembles (band, chorus, orchestra), Modern Band allows students to perform this music the way they would experience it in real life.

The group discussed the complement the course would add to the existing music program, that no additional positions would be needed to offer it, as student's experience would be basic to enter but not without any music experience. Previous courses taken could be Beginner Guitar, Electronic Music, or a student could audition. The subcommittee members agreed that owning or renting an instrument would not be required for participation. Additional suggestions included noting individual projects and/or student choice in musical selections, as well as possible performance outlets for the course participants. Members agreed that this would engage students who may not be engaged with current pathways in the music curriculum. Committee members expressed their support of the course.

Meeting adjourned at 3:47 PM

  
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Catherine Bowen

Respectfully Submitted by