

# MDUSD Elementary Instrumental Music Method Book Adoption

## Committee Members and Recommendation

August 29, 2014

**Rationale:** The Elementary instrumental program represents the beginning of a student's experience in instrumental music education.

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, committee members met to review and recommend method books for use in the Elementary Instrumental music program. The books were reviewed using The California Standards for Visual and Performing Arts 5<sup>th</sup> grade music standards. The committee recommended one method book for use with band (wind and brass instruments) and one book for string instruments. These method books are to be used with beginning instrumental students at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level. Should the Instrumental program expand to include 4<sup>th</sup> grade, these method books can also be used for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students, as the books are designed for beginning level students, regardless of grade level. The purpose of having a common method book at the Elementary level is ensure all students participating in the Elementary instrumental music program have access to the same materials and instruction.

### **Recommendation:**

- **Method book for band instruments: Essential Elements for Band – Book 1 with EEi (Essential Elements Interactive)**
- **Method book for strings: Essential Elements for Strings – Book 1 with EEi (Essential Elements Interactive)**

### **Committee Commendations:**

- Each book has a clear and logical approach to beginning instrumental music study.
- Material is presented sequentially and concepts are written in a student-friendly manner.
- Method books provide accessibility for students by having a clear layout of music on each page.
- Written explanations are featured in a colored box on pages.
- Books support students in “reading, writing and performing major scales” as well as “reading, writing, and performing simple melodic notation in treble clef in major keys” (VAPA Standard 1.1, 1.2).
- Clear diagram of each instrument in each book and fingering charts are shown at the top of each page.
- Built in student assessment called “star achievements”.
- The historical and cultural context of music (VAPA Standard 3.0) is addressed as diverse songs are represented and a history of each song is provided.
- Music forms: theme and variation are defined next to the example of the music.
- Description of the style of music is provided right next to the music that students will play (ex: folk songs)

- Method books help scaffold instruction by first showing note names on the first few pages and then fades out as notes are repeated on subsequent pages.
- Each method book comes with an online interactive component, access to Finale Notepad, and a demonstration video. The aspects help to differentiate instruction and address 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills.

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Sites</b>	<b>Position</b>
Karen Ashford	Silverwood, Mtn. View, Westwood, Monte Gardens, El Monte	Elementary Instrumental Music Teacher
Josie Bromley	Strandwood, Hidden Valley, Gregory Gardens, Pleasant Hill Elem, Valhalla	Elementary Instrumental Music Teacher
Caroline Harrison	Woodside, Cambridge, Fair Oaks, Ygnacio Valley Elem	Elementary Instrumental Music Teacher
Emilie Patton	Bancroft, Walnut Acres, Meadow Homes	Elementary Instrumental Music Teacher
Kathy Sireno	Ayers, Bel Air, Shore Acres, Delta View, Rio Vista	Elementary Instrumental Music Teacher
Julianna Sikes	District Office	School Support Administrator