

Retention in Band from Middle School to High School

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Purpose Statement

The purpose of this basic qualitative study was to explore the elements that middle school students consider in their decision to continue band in high school in conjunction with the recruiting elements from their high school directors.

Literature Review

Social Interactions

Baker, 2009; Cook, 2013; Daigle, 2018; Gouzouasis et al., 2008; Hallam et al., 2016; Hawkinson, 2015; Ng & Hartwig, 2011; Rawlings, 2017

Life Experiences

Constantine, 2011; Gouzouasis et al., 2008; Hallam et al., 2016; Hawkinson, 2015

Student Support Systems

Cook, 2013; Hallam et al., 2016; Hawkinson, 2015; Glasser, 2017; Kinney, 2009; Krupp-SchleauBner & Lehmann-Wermser, 2016; Ng & Hartwig, 2011

Research Questions

Directors

- ▶ What types of recruitment strategies does the director employ?

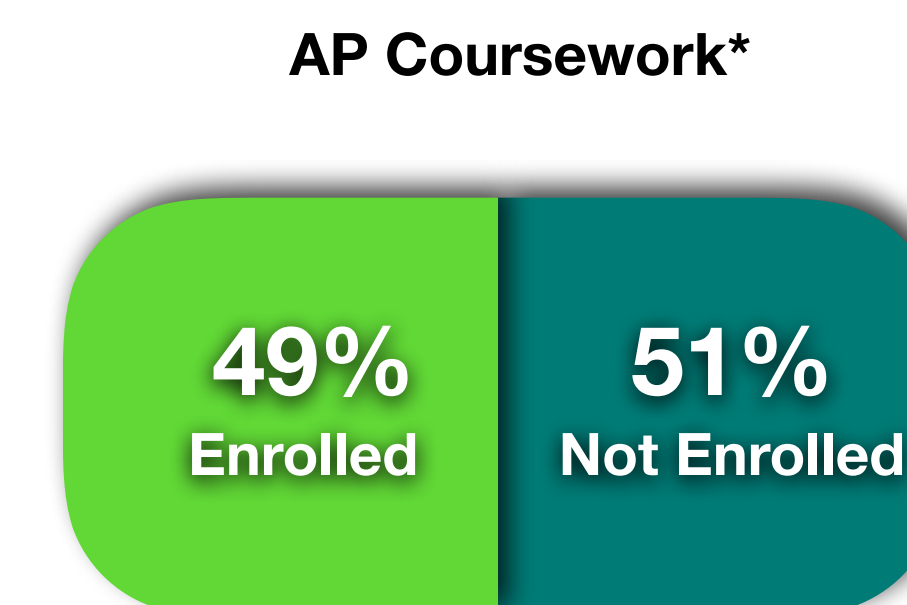
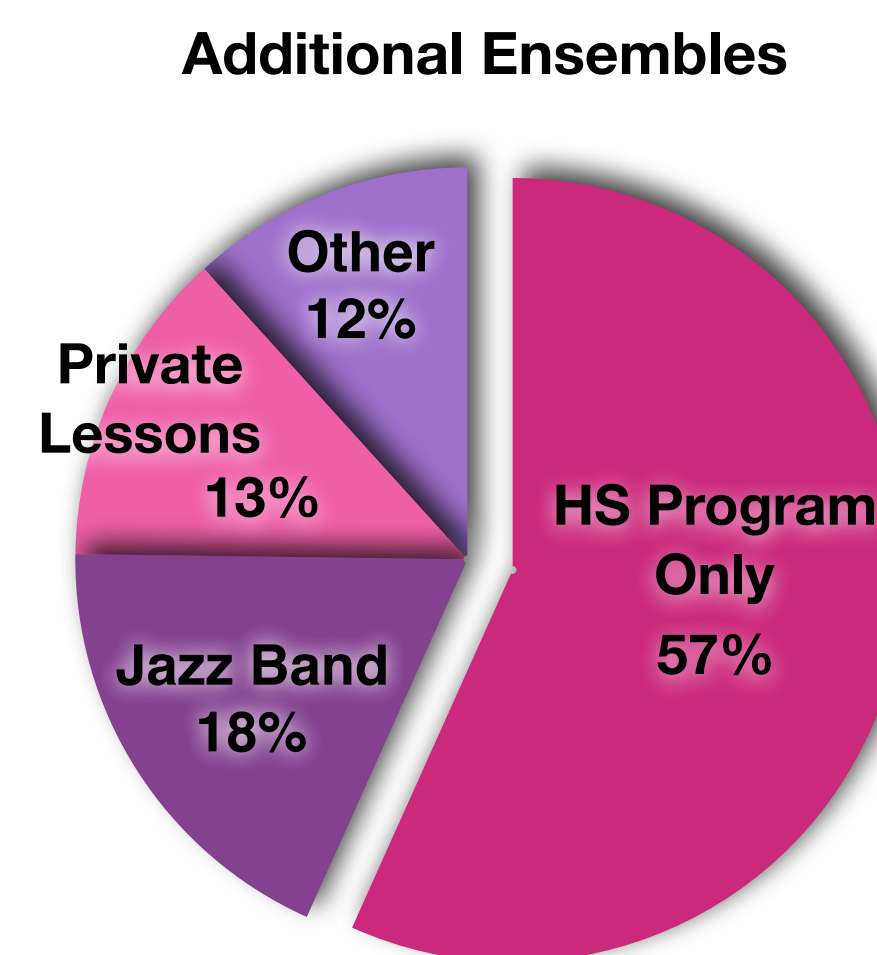
Freshmen

- ▶ What influenced high school freshmen band students to continue band in high school?
- ▶ Where do students see themselves going with their music making?
- ▶ What types of scheduling limitations and conflicts did the students encounter before signing up for band in high school?

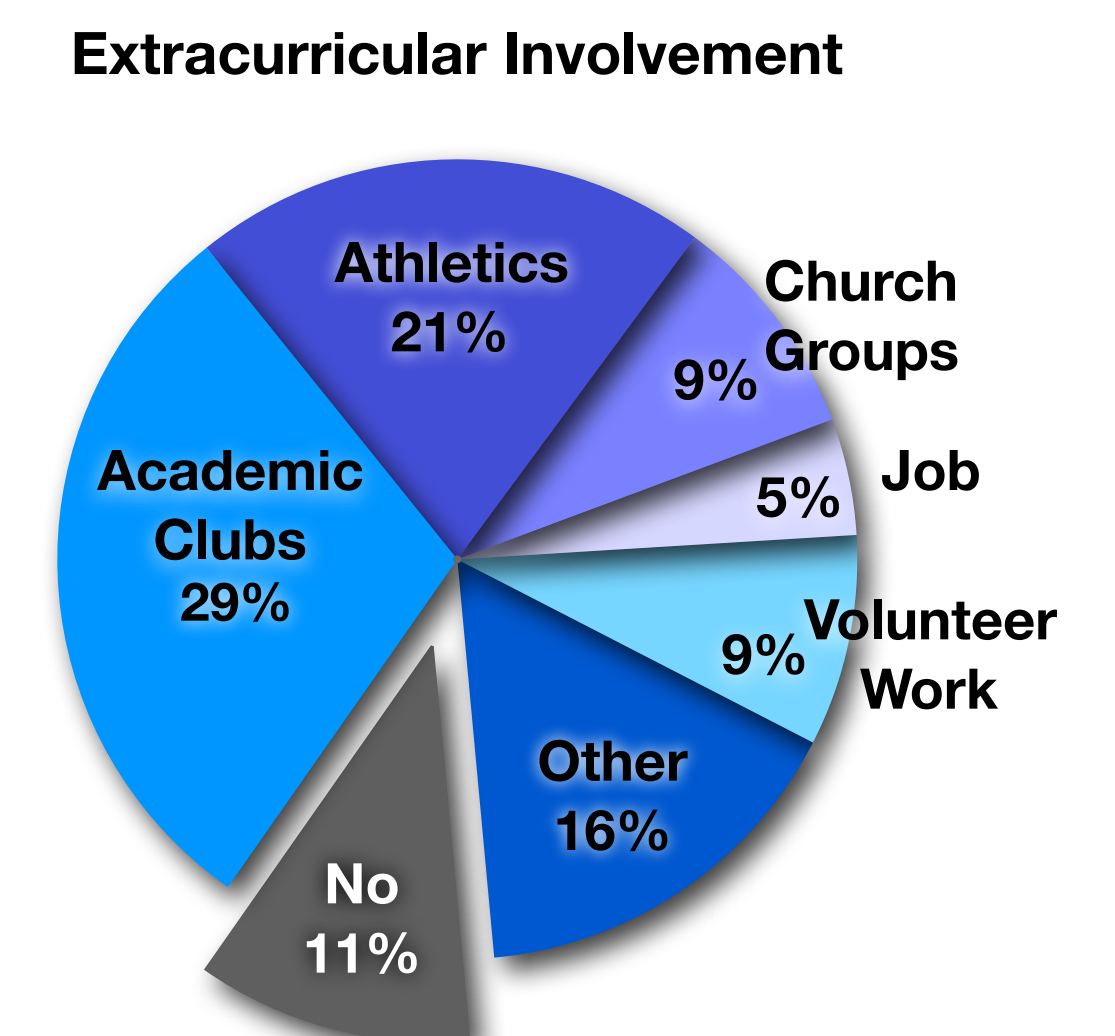
Findings

- ▶ Social and life experiences were rated the highest in students' decision to join HS band.
- ▶ 38% of students encountered scheduling conflicts when signing up for HS band.
- ▶ Potential involvement in more rigorous coursework and extracurricular involvement after freshmen year could present conflicts for students, resulting in declining numbers in band.

Additional Participation Outside Band During Freshmen Year



*91% of students indicated that they would be enrolling in AP coursework after their freshmen year



Methodology

Participants

- ▶ High school band directors varying in age, ethnicity, and gender
- ▶ High school freshmen

Analysis

- ▶ All interviews were transcribed. Data from interviews and questionnaire were coded individually and collectively to answer research questions. (Creswell, 2007)

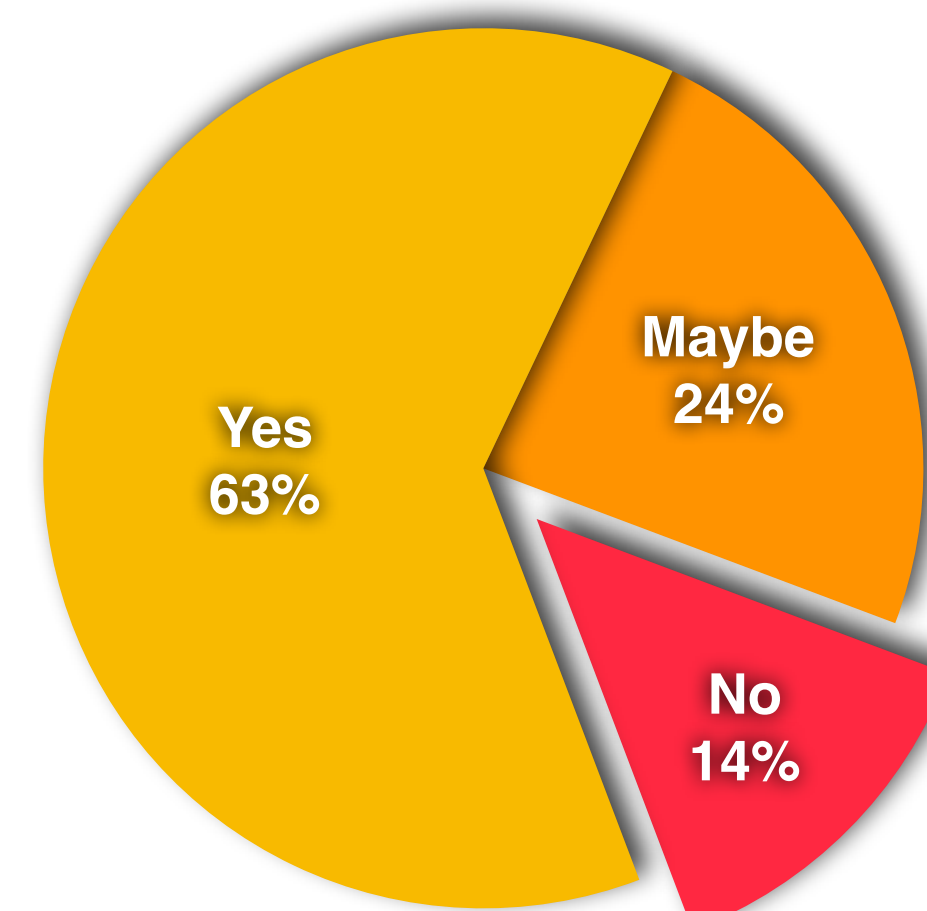
Data

- ▶ Directors
Semi-structured interview
 $n = 5$ (30 minutes)
- ▶ Freshmen
Online 19 item questionnaire
 $n = 148$ (5-point Likert Scale & open ended responses)

Credibility

- ▶ Member checks

Do you see yourself continuing band after high school?



Conclusions

- ▶ Higher enrollment could occur when high school directors interact frequently with their feeder programs.
- ▶ Directors can develop and maintain activities that capitalize on the social aspects of band in high school such as chamber music ensembles, outreach performances and fundraisers, and trips.
- ▶ High school students should also be placed in mentoring positions for their feeder programs to help take away the "fear" factor of high school band.