



**TOOLBOX SESSIONS**

~~~~~ **JUNIOR HIGH** ~~~~~  
**INNOVATIVE CONCERT  
PROGRAMMING**

**2024 "Many Voices, One Song"**  
**WACDA Conference**  
Thursday, March 7th  
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm



**MELANIE BROWN**



**ALEXANDRA FARDELOS**



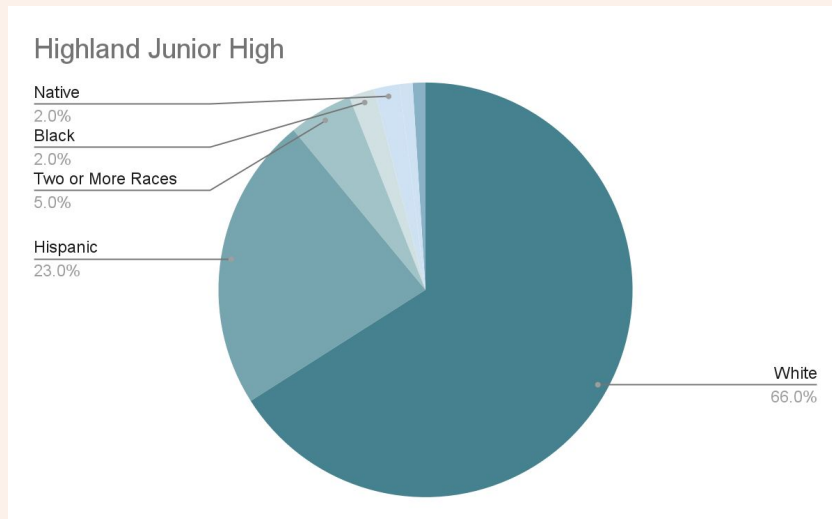
**TARYN TIDWELL**



# MELANIE BROWN

14 years of teaching  
Highland Jr. & High  
Gilbert Public Schools

## 19% Low Income



Resource: Greatschools



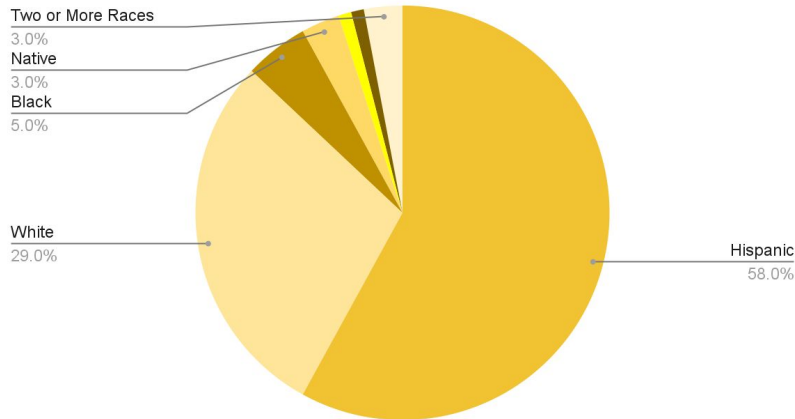
# ALEXANDRA FARDELOS

6 years of teaching  
Taylor JH & Carson JH  
Mesa Public Schools



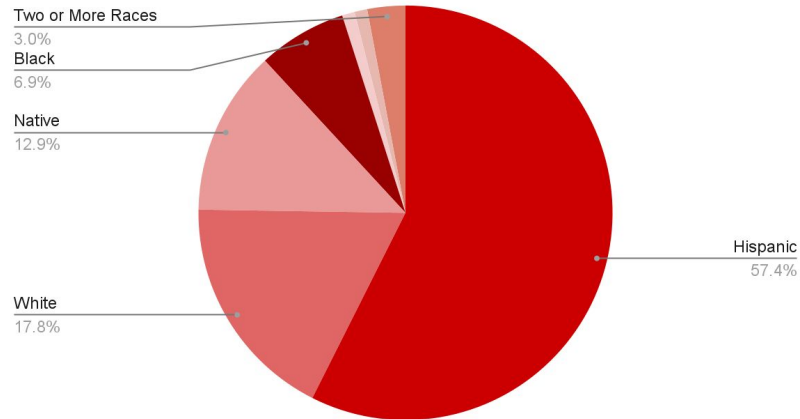
## 66% Low Income

Taylor Junior High



## 76% Low Income

Carson Junior High



Resource: Greatschools

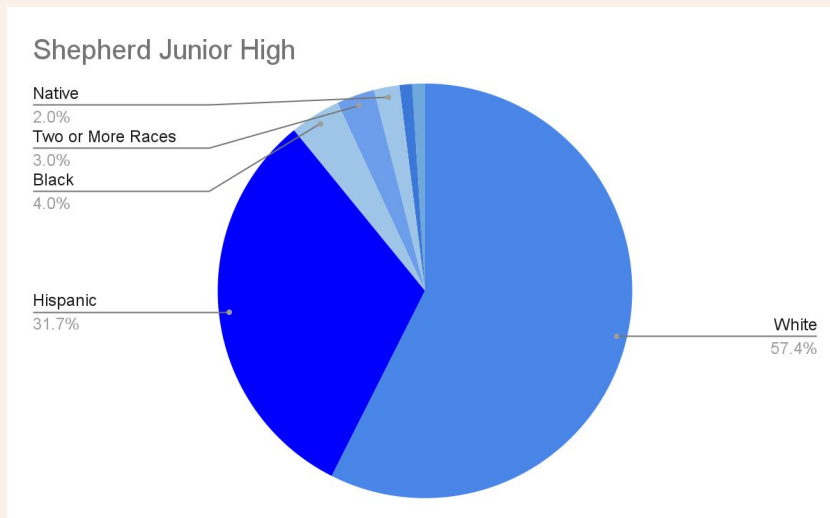
Resource: Greatschools



# TARYN TIDWELL

10 years of teaching  
Shepherd JH  
Mesa Public Schools

## 39% Low Income



Resource: Greatschools

# ***PERFORMANCE MODELS***

## **And how to program for them**

- Informance
- Broadway/Pops
- Theme-Based Traditional Concerts
- Concert Alternatives-  
(Project-Based Performances, solo/small groups,  
cafe style recitals, etc)

The background is a light beige color with various abstract elements. In the top left, there is a cyan shape with a cluster of black dots. In the top right, there is a blue shape with a yellow star and a black wavy line. In the bottom left, there is a pink shape. In the bottom right, there is a yellow shape and a purple star. A large orange speech bubble is in the center.

01

# **INFORMANCES**

TEACHING YOUR AUDIENCE THROUGH  
PERFORMANCE




# INFORMANCE RATHER THAN PERFORMANCE

An “informance” was a great way to start the year, especially in a community that does not have much choral background knowledge.

It was also a great way to have students show the community WHAT they have learned in choir *besides* the repertoire.

- We do more than just “sing songs”
- We know that... but does your community and administration know that?

If your choral program is smaller, great time filler as well!



# PERFORMANCE - FIRST CONCERT EXAMPLE

## POSTURE



Posture Numbers

"Stand to Sing" -  
Warm up song

## PHYSICAL WARM UPS



Stretching

"Follow the  
conductor"  
clapping game

4 Beats After Me

## VOCAL WARM UPS



Students  
demonstrate two  
to three vocal  
warm ups that we  
have been  
working on in class

## SOLFEGE



Major Scale

Extension: Do, Do  
Re Do...



# STUDENT INTRODUCTIONS

- Students collaborate on what to say at the concert, as well as what they want to demonstrate at the informance
- Students audition for the speaking parts - this is a great way to practice the audition process before doing singing solo auditions
- Great assignment for sub days, and can tie into writing standards



# OTHER IDEAS FOR AN INFORMANCE

- Honor Choir audition demonstration
- At a later concert - add new concepts: minor, sight reading, new warm ups, etc.
- Upcoming “outside of choir” events or groups
  - Musical preview
  - Tri-M



02

**BROADWAY  
POPS  
CONCERTS**





# Broadway / Pops Concerts

Choreography

Technical Elements

Broadway Solos

Costumes





# Choreography

- Purpose of Choreo
- Budget
- Student Choreographers vs. Professional Choreographers
- Time Element (preparation, teaching, cleaning)

# Technical Elements

- Budget
  - Big or small you can make it work!
- Sound
- Staging
- Lighting





# Broadway Solos



# Costumes

- Purpose of Costumes
- Cost involved → Fundraising
- Uniform Look vs. Palette of Options







03

**THEMATIC  
CONCERTS**

# THEMATIC CONCERTS

## REASONING



Can help guide music selection

Engaging for audience

Fun for the students

Learning opportunities

## CONSTRAINTS



Budget

What's in your library?

Student Buy-in

## IDEAS



Involve community members

Students can arrange/select rep

# FOLK SONGS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

## 7TH GRADE TREBLE CHOIR

Sarasponda ..... arr. Ruth Boshkoff  
(Netherlands)

Every Night When the Sun Goes In ..... arr. David Waggoner  
(United States)

Zum Gali Gali ..... arr. Dan Schwartz  
(Israel)

## BARITONE CHOIR

Wairua Tapu ..... Traditional Maori  
(New Zealand)

Loch Lomond ..... arr. Earlene Rentz  
(Scotland)

Shady Grove ..... arr. Jerry Estes  
(United States)

## 8TH GRADE TREBLE CHOIR

Hala Lala Layya ..... arr. Audrey Snyder  
(Lebenon)

Shule Aroon ..... arr. Ruth Elaine Schram  
(Ireland)

Murasame ..... Victor C Johnson  
(Japan)

Niska Banja ..... arr. Nick Page  
(Romania)

## COMBINED CHOIRS

Tue Tue ..... arr. Ruth Morris Gray  
(Ghana)





04

**CONCERT  
ALTERNATIVES**

# PROJECT BASED LEARNING PERFORMANCE

Students sang in their choral ensemble, as well as in small groups.

These small groups acted as a “Project Based Learning” opportunity. Students selected from a choice of songs, and then worked on it in small groups.

The idea is to present it as a “Public Product” - being “professional audiences”.

Small groups performed in front of:

- Their peers
- Concert audience
- “Winterfest” Fundraiser Audience



TAYLOR JUNIOR HIGH  
MUSIC DEPARTMENT  
INVITES YOU TO

THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 1ST  
5:30 - 7:30



# WINTER FEST

JOIN TAYLOR MUSIC STUDENTS IN A  
NIGHT OF FUN, FOOD, AND JOYFULL  
MUSIC. BRING YOUR OWN BLANKET OR  
CHAIRS, AND ENJOY THE HOLIDAY  
FUN!

## FOOD TRUCKS:

- CRAZY LIME SALSA
- MR. WONDERFUL'S  
CHICKEN AND WAFFLE
- WAFFLE LOVE

# WINTERFEST

- Casual, outdoor performance
  - Bring your own seating
- Decorated courtyard
- Food trucks - great fundraiser potential
- Collaboration between all 3 music disciplines
  - Invited HS performing groups as well
- Tried to use as a recruitment event as well - not as well received in terms of recruiting despite reaching out to all elementary feeders.

# WINTERFEST GROUP WORKSHEET

## WINTERFEST GROUP PLANS

Student Names:

Song:

|                                       |     |    |
|---------------------------------------|-----|----|
| Are you making any edits to the song? | YES | NO |
|---------------------------------------|-----|----|

|                                          |     |    |
|------------------------------------------|-----|----|
| Are you including any solos in the song? | YES | NO |
|------------------------------------------|-----|----|

Write in any edits or solos here:

# WINTERFEST SCHEDULE

## Taylor Music Department WinterFest Dec. 1st Performance Schedule

| Time | Song                    | Program   | Students | Call Time |
|------|-------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| 5:35 | Introduction            |           |          |           |
| 5:40 | First Noel              | Orchestra |          | 5pm       |
| 5:45 | <a href="#">Rudolph</a> | Choir     |          | 5pm       |
| 5:50 | Up on the Housetop      | Orchestra |          | 5pm       |
| 5:55 | Jingle Bells            | Band      |          | 5pm       |
| 6:00 | <a href="#">Frosty</a>  | Choir     |          | 5:30pm    |





Groups of various sizes - depended on song as well as student ability level

# ***OTHER CONCERTS YOU CAN DO PERFORMANCE BASED LEARNING MODELS:***

- Cafe style
- Traditional concerts - great way to transition between groups
- Broadway pops concerts!

# ***RECAP***

- Informance
- Broadway/Pops
- Theme-Based Traditional Concerts
- Concert Alternatives-  
(Project-Based Performances, solo/small groups, cafe style recitals, etc)

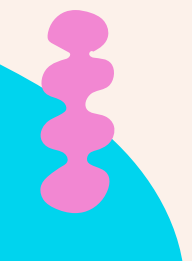


**QUESTIONS?**

THANK YOU  
FOR ATTENDING!



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**Melanie Brown**

[Melanie.Brown@gilbertschools.net](mailto:Melanie.Brown@gilbertschools.net)

**Allie Fardelos**

[aafardelos@mpsaz.org](mailto:aafardelos@mpsaz.org)

**Taryn Tidwell**

[tktidwell@mpsaz.org](mailto:tktidwell@mpsaz.org)

