



October 2, 2019

Dear Band, Choir and Orchestra Parents and Students:

This message is to provide an update on changes related to the availability of honors music courses in grade 11 (Level III) and grade 12 (Level IV).

Last fall Plano ISD began a process to review all secondary courses to ensure advanced level courses were designed as such. As a result of this review, the current versions of these honors music courses are not included in the course catalog for students entering high school in 2019-2020. The senior high school directors came together in the late spring and summer to review honors designation requirements and redesign the Music III & IV Honors courses to create more intentionally designed advanced courses. At the same time the honors course designation requirements were revisited by committee.

We are pleased to inform you that these newly redesigned music honors courses were presented to the Board of Trustees at the October 1st meeting. They will also be reviewed by the New Course Committee later this month and will appear in the course catalog for the 2020-21 school year. The course content for honors music will include an added emphasis on proficiency of repertoire, advanced technical skills, advanced theory and aural skills, critical performance evaluation and the development of a personal portfolio of advanced work samples.

Information about these course options is being shared with directors, counselors and principals. The revised course design will be available to all interested 11th and 12th grade students in the fall of 2020. Because of this proactive adjustment in curriculum, no student will experience a gap in the availability of honors music at the senior high school level.

Plano ISD continues to make innovative learning a priority for all students in all content areas. Our music programs are among the best in the state, and our school board and district administrators are very supportive and proud of our fine arts students. We appreciate your continued support of these programs.

Sincerely,

Kathy Kuddes, MME
Plano ISD Director of Fine Arts