

# New Course Proposal for Kingsway College 2018/2019

The Arts Curriculum

By: Andrew J. Brown

## Rationale:

Currently, Kingsway offers three ways for a student to receive an art credit. They can audition and enroll in band or choir (touring groups) or they can enroll in visual arts classes. Since I started working here in 2016, I noticed that the band had a few string players in the ensemble already. Concert band does not include string instruments (except the occasional string bass). Concert band/Wind ensembles include only wind instruments and percussion. Orchestra include strings. However, there were not enough strings at Kingsway to fulfill the requirements of an orchestra. Historically, Kingsway has a concert band (wind band) not an orchestra. It was a recent decision by my predecessor to add some strings to fill the gap when the enrolment was not so high. Due to the rise in enrolment, I had to remove the option for strings to join the concert band, so more wind players and percussion can get a chance. Parents have expressed to me that they would like their child to play in the band, but their child plays violin or cello. I told the parents that we do not have an orchestra program to accommodate strings students and adding a few strings to the band will be problematic to the balance and sound (the majority of winds and percussion will drown out the few string players). In addition, I told the parents I could not convert the band into an orchestra because most elementary schools in Canada and US have band programs not orchestra, so the majority of students coming from elementary school play band instruments (wind and percussion). To form an orchestra, the majority of the players need to play strings and a minority wind and percussion, and we do not have that at Kingsway. Lastly, the violin players that were in the band when I arrived at Kingsway were playing oboe or flute parts. Students received wind parts to read not string parts and they were either bored or confused.

## **The solution?**

I told parents and administrators that most Adventist academies and public school offer both band and orchestra. If there is a school that does not have enough strings players to form an orchestra (like Kingsway), then they offer band and string ensemble. Great Lakes Academy and Andrews Academy are great examples. They have a concert band and a string ensemble. The concert band and the choir travels around because they are the larger ensembles. The string ensemble may travel just locally. At times, the string ensemble may travel with the choir on trips (depending on enrolment numbers). I told parents and administrators that Kingsway could benefit from a string ensemble. Currently, around 12 students who play violin, viola, cello or string bass (not including the 2018/19 new students). The benefit is that there needs will be met. No more reading wind parts. They will be playing actual string music. Further, it will not run the budget up too much because the students will have their own instruments. The only instrument we will need to get is a string bass, which is too big for students to buy and lug around.

The other issue is that students who do not play ensemble instruments or sing. The Ontario curriculum offers courses that can help. One course is for students who want to learn how to write music. The second course are for students who play piano. By the way, students who are part of RCM (Royal Conservatory of Music), can transfer their music certificates for an OSSD credit (see attach for requirements). There are students at Kingsway who are in RCM.

## New Potential Courses and Codes according to Ontario Secondary School Curriculum:

Strings: Pick one of the courses listed below and the grade level necessary for school growth

- AMS1O: Grade 9 Strings
- AMS2O: Grade 10 Strings
- AMS3M: Grade 11 Strings
- AMS4M: Grade 12 Strings

Music Composition: Pick one of the courses listed below and the grade level necessary for school growth

- AMC1O: Grade 9 Composition
- AMC2O: Grade 10 Composition
- AMC3M: Grade 11 Composition
- AMC4M: Grade 12 Composition

Keyboard Music (Piano): Pick one of the courses listed below and the grade level necessary for school growth

- AMK1O: Grade 9 Piano
- AMK2O: Grade 10 Piano
- AMK3M: Grade 11 Piano
- AMK4M: Grade 12 Piano

Small Ensemble (just in case the enrollment for the string class is low): Pick one of the courses listed below and the grade level necessary for school growth

- AME1O: Grade 9 Small Ensemble
- AME2O: Grade 10 Small Ensemble
- AME3M: Grade 11 Small Ensemble
- AME4M: Grade 12 Small Ensemble

## Scheduling and Request

The main issue with this proposal is where to place it in the already hectic Kingsway schedule. One idea to make this easier is to combine two of the classes. For example, the string ensemble and the music composition can be taught in one class period. There will just have different requirements. It is like the plan we have for band and choir already; one class period three different classes (band/choir 10, 11 12). This is the idea only if there are not enough string players to fill a course. If there are at least 20 students enrolled in the string class, then there will be no need to combine the composition class. **The composition and piano class (mentioned above) were other ideas that may help. The focus of this proposal is the string class. If the string class needs more students, then wind and percussion players from band can join, and form a small ensemble class instead of a string class.**

I am requesting to teach strings or both strings and composition (depending on the enrollment) instead of Foods and Nutrition. I have the training to teach these new courses. Please consider these ideas for the 2018/2019 or 2019/2020. My schedule is the same. The only change is String class for Food's class during second semester.

Sample new Mr. Brown Schedule:

First Semester

- 1.) Geography Period 2
- 2.) CPES Band Period 3
- 3.) Band Period 4

Second Semester

- 1.) Geography Period 2
- 2.) CPES Band Period 3
- 3.) Band Period 4
- 4.) String Ensemble Period 5\* instead of Food's class**

*By the way, **course outlines** will be the same as band and choir because the requirements are the same according to the curriculum. The only change is the emphasis of the course and the course code name.*

Thank you for your consideration,

Andrew Brown